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Photo Challenge

The best of Metro's Global Photo Challenge

pgs 8, 9

"For the first time in the history of Canada, the prime minister of Canada is running away from the Parliament."
Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion

"What he's doing right now is trying to lock the door of Parliament so that the elected people cannot speak."
New Democrat Leader Jack Layton

"The Conservative leader has managed to do something quite extraordinary, which is to attract the criticism of all the leaders in Quebec." Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe

House on hiatus

Harper asks rivals for input on economy as GG prorogues Parliament

NATION DIVIDED

Prime Minister Stephen Harper appealed to his political rivals for economic advice to defuse their outrage over the Conservative leader's unprecedented shutdown of Parliament to avoid certain defeat.

After an 80-minute meeting yesterday at Rideau Hall, Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean granted Harper's request to prorogue Parliament, sparing him from a confidence vote on Monday — and defeat for his Conservatives.

The Conservative leader acknowledged the economic demands of his political critics and promised the "first order of business" when Parliament resumes on Jan. 26 would be a budget the following day.

But Harper's invitation to the opposition parties to work together on the economic file did not appease the three party leaders who say they remain ready to replace his government with a Liberal-led coalition at the earliest opportunity.

The NDP and Bloc vowed to defeat the Conservatives, even if it means waiting a few more weeks.

"I cannot have confidence in the prime minister who would throw the locks on the door of this place knowing that he's about to lose a vote in the House of Commons. That's denying about as fundamental a right as one has in a democracy," NDP Leader Jack Layton said on Parliament Hill.

But cracks began to appear in the resolve of the Liberal party.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion condemned Harper's tactical move to avoid defeat while at the same time, he appeared willing to compromise if Harper acts on their budget demands.

"This is about replacing Stephen Harper unless he made a monumental change ... the challenge is monumental for him," Dion said.

"Nothing in what Mr. Harper said today will change our mind."

Harper adopted a more conciliatory tone than in the week since the crisis erupted over his government's economic statement.

Outside Rideau Hall, Harper called on the opposition to "engage with the government," citing Canadians' "frustration" at all political parties for their failure to work together on the economic crisis.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean approved his recommendation to prorogue Parliament at Rideau Hall in Ottawa yesterday. Harper said he will deliver a budget the day after Parliament resumes, which will be on Jan. 26.

More Coverage

- Word on the Street, pg 4
- Coalition to keep up fight against Conservatives, pg 4
- West still mostly supportive of Harper, pg 6
- Readers voice opinions in Comment & Views, pg 12
- Videos of Harper's address and the week's biggest losers at metronews.ca/canada

Do you think the Gov. Gen. should have allowed the prime minister to prorogue Parliament?

Kathy Vanderbilt
age 39, Calgary

A: I think it's good (she) stepped in and suspended Parliament because the coalition wasn't the elected party.

Annemarie McCrie
age 32, Edmonton

A: I think taking a break is a good thing because things are moving too quickly. The coalition is just going way too far — they're pushing and pushing.

Jason Contant
age 32, Toronto

A: I think so. It is a precedent setting thing ... because they would have brought a confidence motion ... that would bring down the government.

Randall Smolinski
age 38, Ottawa

A: Absolutely, Canadians voted in September. We made a decision then and we should stick with that and not change anything.

Donna Maxwell
age 52, Dartmouth, N.S.

A: I'm disappointed. What else can you say? I don't like the dictatorial manner that Harper uses.

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Father, son arrested in connection with 22 break-ins
An alleged father-son cat-burglar team from Mission has been arrested, Abbotsford police said Thursday. The 47-year-old man and his 21-year-old son are believed responsible for at least 22 break-ins over the past two months. **METRO VANCOUVER**

Local

Police arrest three in van

Around a dozen police officers drew their guns and took down three men in a van at the intersection of Broadway and Cambie streets Thursday. Witnesses said the arrest might have been in connection with an attempted bank robbery nearby earlier in the day. NEWS1130.COM

Sacrificing an arm for a net

Research chair feeding skeeters to raise funds to fight malaria in Africa

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson/metro vancouver

A public bloodletting is taking place at Simon Fraser University today to help fight the spread of malaria, a disease that kills between one and three million people a year, mostly children.

Carl Lowenberger, a Canada research chair in parasitology and disease vectors, will place his arm in a cage of bloodthirsty skeeters to raise funds for mosquito nets for children living in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The mosquito that transmits malaria in this region … bites at night," Lowenberger said. "The concept is that we can protect children … by covering the bed with an insecticide-impregnated bed net."

The fundraiser, which takes place today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the concourse of the south Academic Quadrangle, is part of UNICEF's Spread the Net campus challenge. The university hopes to raise $25,000.

The campaign, co-chaired by comedian Rick Mercer and ex-MP Belinda Stronach, has set a goal of $5 million to purchase 500,000 nets in Liberia and Rwanda.

Lowenberger, who has been working with mosquitoes for more than 15 years, said people are naturally bloodthirsty and hopes the feasting will give them some entertainment.

"I have almost no reaction at all. So it's not as bad as it sounds."

YouTube taunt

• For a taste of the feeding, Lowenberger, picture at right, has posted an online video challenging Rick Mercer to put his arm in a mosquito cage, *youtube.com/sfunews*.

PHOTO COURTESY SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Band to play gig for Insite

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

BACK ON The Bedouin Soundclash are giving their free concert outside Vancouver's supervised injection site another go Saturday night. The band's first attempt was shut down by police.

Vancouver indie rockers Black Mountain have also been added to the show.

The first concert, which was scheduled for Oct. 23, never got off the ground as police said organizers didn't have the proper permits.

Mark Townsend, executive director of PHS Community Services Society, which co-runs Insite, said yesterday all the permits are in place and that lead singer Jay Malinowski is coming from the United Kingdom specifically for the show.

"Even though Jay's generous offer to play was still open, we didn't know when, or if, we'd be able to reschedule," he said. "But the city came through and we've got the paperwork in our hands now."

Townsend said the show, Play Music Not Politics, is a message to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that Insite saves lives and should be kept open.

In May, the Supreme Court ruled the clinic, which operates under an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, can't constitutionally be shut down — a decision the federal government appealed.

News in brief

LAWSUIT A group of patients who say they paid extra fees for health-care services covered under public health insurance plan to launch a lawsuit against Victoria, the B.C. Nurses Union said yesterday.

CARS CBC expects to pay $825,000 in severance to workers involved in a scam to sell rebuilt cars without disclosing damage history. Of the eight involved, one has been fired and two left the company on their own. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video: Stephen Harper addresses the media after meeting with the Governor General at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video: Plenty of losers after a wild week in Ottawa at **metronews.ca/canada**

Economic crisis to hit convention-centre expansion: CEO

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson/metro vancouver

ECONOMY The current economic crisis will impact Vancouver's soon-to-open convention centre expansion, the CEO of B.C. Pavilion Corp. (PavCo) said yesterday. But there are no cancellations so far.

Warren Buckley said the downturn will adversely affect corporate meetings and the amount visitors spend.

"Meetings are a very resilient commodity," said Buckley, during a media tour yesterday marking 100 days until the convention centre opens.

"They are always the first to rebound … People in associations, whether it be medical, professional, need to get together. They need to interact."

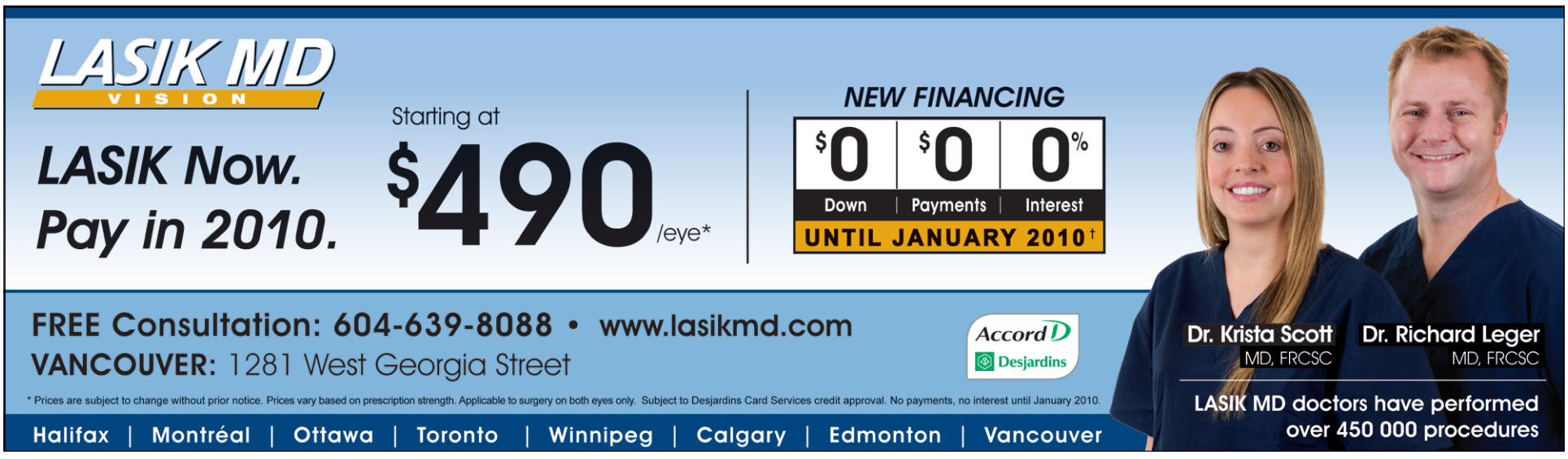
So far, 159 events have already been booked, beginning April 2009 with a 1,700-delegate convention of the American Bar Association. Buckley said there has not been a single cancellation and that associations and organizations are still booking.

"Will we see it in some aspects of our business? Of course we will. But in terms of booking there's no impact yet."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Warren Buckley, CEO of PavCo, at Vancouver's new expanded convention centre yesterday.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER



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Conservatives most popular

An EKOS poll conducted for CBC this week found support for the Conservatives at 44 per cent, up from the 37.6 per cent the party received in the October federal election. The poll found the Liberals down two points at 24 per cent, and the NDP down almost four points at 14.5 per cent. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Don't bash Quebec: Charest

Quebec Liberal Leader Jean Charest, left, is urging Canadians not to let the political power struggle in Ottawa descend into Quebec-bashing. Charest condemned anti-separatist rhetoric aimed at Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, who has agreed to support a coalition of the Liberals and NDP. Charest reminded Canadians that more than 1.4 million voters supported the Bloc. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Coalition to keep up fight

Tories, opposition have seven weeks to sway Canadians

NATION DIVIDED

The decision to prorogue Parliament didn't bring out the white flags of surrender for the Liberal-NDP coalition united to defeat the Conservatives.

But it changed the strategy of battle.

The fight moves from a now-shuttered Parliament Hill to the airwaves and Internet as Conservative MPs square off against the Liberal and NDP MPs trying to push them from office.

Instead of a quick victory over the Conservatives, the NDP, Liberal and Bloc Québécois MPs now face the prospect of a drawn-out public-relations campaign over the holidays and early winter to win Canadians to their cause.

"I think both the coalition and Mr. Harper are going to be working hard on presenting economic ideas to Canadians over the next six to seven weeks," said Liberal MP Bob Rae.

The creation of the political coalition — and the threat it presented to the Conservatives — had already sparked a public-relations war by both sides, featuring radio ads, Internet blogging, talk shows and public demonstrations, like the pro-coalition rally on Parliament Hill yesterday, attended by thousands.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, centre, smiles as New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton, left, shakes hands with Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe earlier this week in Ottawa.

25 The percentage increase of traffic on metronews.ca following the parliamentary action Thursday — one of the highest days Metro has ever seen for web traffic.

Worst Quebec attacks in 20 years: Duceppe

BQ Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe reacted angrily to the parliamentary shutdown and accused the Tories of the worst rhetoric against Quebecers since the early 1990s.

"(Stephen Harper) asked his supporters to engage in the worst attacks against Quebecers since Meech Lake," Duceppe said after Parliament was prorogued until late January. "He has done this simply to save his own skin."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grits soldier on despite dissension

STRATEGY Worried about Stéphane Dion's leadership and skeptical of Stephen Harper's new-found spirit of co-operation, the Liberals sought yesterday to chart their next moves in the wake of the temporary suspension of Parliament.

The future of the Liberal-New Democrat coalition that nearly toppled the Conservative minority appeared up in the air after Gov. Gen. Michäelle Jean agreed with Harper's request to send MPs home until Jan. 26.

Liberals were reeling from Dion's inept performance in his nationally televised response to Harper on Wednesday night and nervous about the storm of anti-coalition reaction the Conservatives were able to whip up across the country in only a few days.

"We must realize the enormity of what happened today."
Stéphane Dion

But, despite some dissent, the party insisted the majority of the 77-member caucus is standing solidly behind the coalition with the NDP that, tapping the support of the Bloc Québécois, had been until yesterday poised to bring down the Harper government and take power.

"We must realize the enormity of what happened today. For the first time in the history of Canada, the prime minister of Canada is running away from the Parliament," Dion said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Word on the street: Do you think the Governor General should have allowed the prime minister to prorogue Parliament?

Hilary Murfitt
age 31, Vancouver

A: No. This is just an avoidance tactic. They are trying to put everything on hold. If people want change, then people want change.

Dakshin Gunawardana
age 21, Vancouver

A: Yes, I think so. We have already had the election. The opposition shouldn't just go in and take it by force.

Michelle Fortier
age 47, Coquitlam

A: I think so. Everything is happening so fast right now. They need to make a plan. I wasn't too excited to see the three stooges form a coalition.

Greg Davidson
age 60, Calgary

A: I am a Conservative supporter, but I think this was Harper's self-infliction and maybe the Governor General should have left him to fend for himself.

Mary Clarke
age 25, Ottawa

A: Yes. Prorogue is the better option because we don't want to enter into an election right now. This gives everybody time to think more about what is going on.

Mike Mauger
age 37, Halifax

A: I didn't vote for the Conservative government, but I am really not happy with the coalition, signing with the separatists and whatnot.

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Bloc bashing could come back to haunt Harper
Baffled by the intensity of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's aggressive condemnations of the Liberal-NDP coalition's deal with the Bloc Québécois, Quebecers are now weighing the consequences of his strategy. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

West still mostly supports Harper

Conservative stronghold upset by coalition

NATION DIVIDED

The only non-Conservative among Alberta's 28 MPs is preparing to do a lot of talking in the next few weeks.

"The sweater vest is off, the flak jacket is on," said Linda Duncan, the NDP member who took Edmonton-Strathcona on Oct. 14.

Duncan has received hundreds of e-mails over the last week or so, many of them negative.

Many in Alberta and the rest of the West have expressed anger over the coalition put together by the Liberals and the NDP, with the backing of the Bloc Québécois. Duncan believes it is time to let the rabble-rousing die down.

While Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach is relieved Parliament was prorogued, he said he hopes Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be listening carefully to what the premiers say about the economy during a first ministers meeting Jan. 16.

"I can say with confidence that people in the West still have confidence in the prime minister to hold our country together."
Don Plett, Conservative Party of Canada president

Conservative Party of Canada president Don Plett has received nonstop calls over the past few days from Conservatives urging him to tell Harper to do whatever is necessary to stop the coalition.

"As someone from the West, I can say with confidence that people in the West still have confidence in the prime minister to hold our country together. People here aren't blaming Quebec. They're blaming the separatist party."

The Conservative party remains the dominant party in the West. The Liberals polled last in all four western provinces and have seven seats in total, while the NDP have 14 seats. The Conservatives have 71 seats.

Conservative supporter Kjell Wooding, who lives in the prime minister's riding of Calgary Southwest, said the crisis originated from having a leader who refused to back down.

"I've always been Conservative and Stephen Harper is my MP, but the guy does have the ability to rub people the wrong way. He is a bully and that's not productive, especially now," said Wooding.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Cpl. Jonathon Mishrigi shown at Sears on Robson Street on Thursday. Customers at the store were invited to write their holiday wishes on a banner of support for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

Wishing our troops the best

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

AFGHANISTAN Shoppers at Sears on Robson Street yesterday added their well-wishes to a giant greeting card on its way to Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The 2½-metre-long banner, which features pictures of the families of Canadian soldiers, is half of a full banner that will be sent overseas on Dec. 16.

The other half is circulating Sears stores out East.

B.C. families

- More than 100 B.C. families will have a loved one serving in Afghanistan over Christmas.

Melissa Ratcliff, with Mainland B.C. Military Family Resource Centre, said it's important for our deployed troops to feel connected to their home over the holidays.

"Seeing something like this banner lets them know they have the support of their friends, family and community, and that even though they're a long way from home, that they're not forgotten," said Ratcliff, who is also the wife of a soldier.

Cpl. Jonathon Mishrigi, who recently returned from Afghanistan, said spirits are high among Canadian troops. "It's just like any job," he said. "You have your ups and downs but for the most part troops are (happy) to do their job, especially for Canada."

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Two dead after helicopter crash

Police have recovered the bodies of two Montreal-area men missing after a helicopter carrying four people crashed into a lake in western Quebec on Wednesday night. The two other men in the helicopter survived. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Winner of the world's

Canadian Joel Charlebois wins $2,000, one-week trip to Paris

CONTEST Fifty-five thousand entries, 20,000 votes, 120,000 comments over 500,000 visits to the website (*metrophotochallenge.com*) — and only one winner. The grand prize of the 2008 Metro Global Photo Challenge, goes to Toronto's Joel Charlebois for his eerie snapshot Midnight Tram to Humber, based on the theme Urban Jungle.

Thousands of photographers from more than 20 countries in which Metro publishes let their inspirations flow in the contest.

The global jury panel chaired by Marco Delogu, Italy's most sought-after portrait photographer, had the difficult task of picking the final photograph from the final 100 global entries.

As the global winner, Charlebois receives $2,000 and a one-week trip for two to Paris, where he will have the chance to create a story-shoot from his Parisian experience. Metro will publish his shots in all 84 editions worldwide.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

1. Midnight Tram to Humber, winner of the 2008 Metro Global Photo Challenge by Joel Charlebois, was shot on a Canon SD500 point-and-shoot camera.

4 runners-up

Three of top 5 finalists are Canadian entries

2. lydiamacintosh, Canada.
3. phil_fortin, Canada.
4. Roman, Czech Republic.
5. zdenaldvorak, Czech Republic.

Joel: *I spent three hours waiting for the shot*

Winner of the 2008 Metro Global Photo Challenge, Joel Charlebois, talks about his amazing month and reveals the recipe for a winning photo.

This has been a memorable month for you, hasn't it?

"Firstly, I was unemployed when I entered the competition and now I have a job, which is great. Then I got to take part in the photo exhibition arranged by Metro. Seeing Midnight Tram to Humber exhibited and being admired by hundreds of people was a fantastic feeling. And this on the night of my 30th birthday! I then won the challenge globally, which is even more amazing."

How was the picture taken?

"A year ago, there had been a few foggy nights in Toronto, and every time I would walk home in the dark, I would wonder what it would be like to capture those eerie moments on camera."

Joel's passion is film.

"So one night, I wrapped up warm, took my backpack and little point-and-shoot camera and spent three hours waiting for the perfect shot in the street. I wasn't working at the time, so I could afford to be up in the middle of the night."

How does it feel to be an amateur who has beaten professional photographers?

"It is a thrilling achievement. More so that I won with a photo I shot on a Canon SD500 point-and-shoot and $20 plastic tripod. It's motivation for anyone with an eye — but not necessarily the fancy tools — to keep shooting."

Has winning the challenge given you a boost to take photography more seriously?

"It has certainly given me a major boost — as well as an amazing camera to work with (a Nikon D700 as my prize) and not the little point-and-shoot I used previously. I am definitely going to try and use this opportunity to realize my dreams."

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

Rise in suicides shocks Saskatchewan officials
Leaders in northern Saskatchewan say they are shocked by a recent series of suicides among young people and are looking for ways to stop the trend. According to officials, there have been five deaths in two communities in the north in the past several weeks. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

largest photo contest

METRO PHOTO CHALLENGE

URBAN JUNGLE

45 of the top entries. To see more, go to metronews.ca/photochallenge.

1. maudeplh, Canada. **2.** cocofinger1, France. **3.** RyanGawley, Ireland. **4.** csabajekkel, Hungary. **5.** erickbuschmann, Chile. **6.** Paul O Connell, Ireland. **7.** clara, Canada. **8.** steven lungley, Canada. **9.** kukrapok, France. **10.** extensa, Denmark. **11.** NuryRM, Mexico. **12.** srosenholtz, USA. **13.** morten, Denmark. **14.** gregoryvoivenel, France. **15.** kadykounta, Portugal. **16.** frozencrates, Sweden. **17.** majaschneberger, Sweden. **18.** artphotoside, USA. **19.** decocury, Brazil. **20.** painite199-bbq, Hong Kong. **21.** manager-ne, Russia. **22.** michelebrancati, Italy. **23.** 6654, Czech Republic. **24.** bjornbjork, Finland. **25.** grandtheftphoto, Netherlands. **26.** dahlstroem, Sweden. **27.** kkroy, Hungary. **28.** matthewthephotographer, Ireland. **29.** catakaoe, Chile. **30.** photonotdead, France. **31.** masatee, Hungary. **32.** igor1501, Brazil. **33.** winwin1221, Hong Kong. **34.** agavrilov, Russia. **35.** thegirlwiththesuninhereyes, Ireland. **36.** angelodoto, Italy. **37.** drozdin, Russia. **38.** tokyo_tripping, Mexico. **39.** casper, Denmark. **40.** katerinamou2000, Greece. **41.** jkmnycmia, USA. **42.** iberman, Portugal. **43.** divanorange, Canada. **44.** Gavin, USA. **45.** bounkham, Canada.

Oil service-vessel workers kidnapped in Nigeria

Gunmen attacked two oil services vessels in separate incidents in Nigeria's Niger delta yesterday, kidnapping a Russian, a Mexican and seven Nigerians, security sources working in the industry said. The vessel Oceanic Orion was attacked some 13 nautical miles off the coast near a crude oil rig operated by Canada's Addax Petroleum. REUTERS

World

Lack of evidence against Olmert

Israel's chief prosecutor said yesterday there was not enough evidence to charge outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, over his conduct in the sale of an Israeli commercial bank, one of several probes against him. Olmert resigned in September in the face of several corruption investigations, but is serving as caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed after a Feb. 10 election. REUTERS

U.S. vows to keep pushing Pakistan

ATTACKS Pakistan must cooperate fully and communicate with India after the Mumbai attacks, the White House said Thursday, vowing to keep the pressure on to ensure that happened.

"Pakistan needs to act with resolve, urgency. They need to cooperate fully and transparently and they need to keep the line of communication open between their country and India," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on a trip to the region aimed at curbing tension between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, said last week's Mumbai attack that saw 171 people killed by militants showed a level of sophistication unseen in the region and urgent action was needed.

REUTERS

Israel evicts settlers

Israeli police used tear gas and clubs to evict hard-line Jewish settlers from a building in the West Bank city of Hebron on Thursday, igniting a wave of settler violence across the Palestinian territory.

REUTERS/RONEN ZVULUN

Israeli police officers evict a Jewish settler from a disputed building in the West Bank city of Hebron on Thursday. Israeli police used tear gas and clubs to evict dozens of hard-line Jewish settlers after days of stone-throwing clashes with Palestinians.

The lightning operation by hundreds of policemen and soldiers ended in less than an hour.

About 30 settlers suffered light-to-moderate injuries, mostly from smoke inhalation. Three policemen were hurt by settlers, who threw rocks, chemicals and food at them.

Angry Jewish settlers, some armed, responded by setting fire to Palestinian cars and property near the building. Eight Palestinians were hurt, including three from gunshot wounds.

Settler violence quickly spread to other areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank with security forces moving to quell the protests. After a few hours of protests in Hebron, at around midnight, local residents reported clashes had largely died down.

Tensions have been especially high in the flashpoint city since the Israeli High Court on Nov. 16 ordered settlers to vacate the building they have been occupying since March 2007.

REUTERS

Police's DNA storage ruled rights violation

EVIDENCE Britain violated the privacy of two people by storing their DNA profiles, Europe's human rights court ruled yesterday, a decision that calls into question rules governing the use of the country's DNA database.

British groups campaigning for individual liberties immediately demanded a change in the law, which the government rejected.

The case centred on a boy who was charged with attempted robbery and later acquitted, and a man who was charged with harassing his partner before the case was discontinued.

Both applied for their fingerprints and DNA samples to be destroyed, but police kept the information on the basis of a law allowing them to keep it indefinitely.

The 17 judges ruled unanimously that Britain had violated the right to respect for private life. They awarded the two people concerned 42,000 euros in expenses.

REUTERS

News in brief

ALCOHOL Bars, breweries and beverage companies across the United States plan to mark the 75th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition on Friday. From 1920 until its repeal in 1933, the 18th Amendment banned the manufacture, sale and distribution of intoxicating liquor nationwide. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Tricky Dick back again

OmniVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

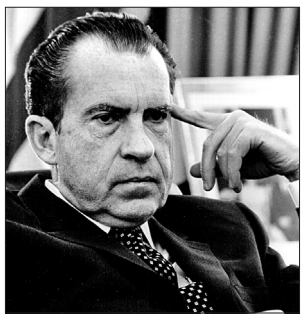
Like most of my generation, born in the mid-'60s, I watched that decade and the grinding transition to the '70s over the shoulders of my parents and older siblings.

Their relationship to Richard Nixon — as fervent as the tie they had with Pierre Trudeau, though usually for different reasons — was one we could only witness, though like the Mexican blankets and plastic chairs that they once used to decorate their homes, we inherited it as we moved into our adult lives.

I can't help but compare it to the scene in Ang Lee's movie of Rick Moody's novel The Ice Storm, set during the Watergate hearings, when Christina Ricci puts on a rubber Nixon mask as she makes out with Elijah Wood. The confusion and trauma on his face is priceless, and if he wasn't dead before the credits rolled, you knew that he was going to carry that emotional scar with him for the rest of his life. Death, it seemed, was the preferable alternative.

The release of Frost/Nixon this weekend marks the peak of yet another cycle in Nixon's posthumous half-life, the ebbing and surging of public fascination with the man, played in Ron Howard's film by Frank Langella as halfway between an impersonation and an interpretation.

Sam Rockwell's portrayal of writer James Reston Jr., one of the team who helped David Frost with his landmark four-part televised interview with the disgraced



Richard Nixon

president, echoes the betrayal we saw in our parents and especially our older brothers and sisters as they confronted Nixon before, during and after Watergate.

I think my generation has always been more ambivalent, though no less fascinated by Nixon, and the film connects with our image of the "tragic" Nixon when, at the end of their verbal battle, Langella's Nixon tells Frost that his biggest regret is how his betrayal of public trust has made politics irredeemably compromised and corrupt for young people from 1973 on.

It's a bit disingenuous — there have been devastating political scandals before, and disillusioning young people is only marginally less difficult than getting them to listen to bad music. Just as a hyperbolic ululation to transformative change peaks, there's always something like this week's parliamentary crotch-kicking to remind us that getting and holding power is often the only real policy a politician will wholeheartedly embrace. I don't know if my Nixon is better than the one looming over the political imagination of my older brother and sister, but I know I prefer our Nixon, betrayed by his own ambition and no less human for it, to the bogeyman who taunted my siblings from his ghostly lair in San Clemente.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Views

Robertson's $100-million question

UrbanCompass

It's not what you want to answer your first day on the job.

But Gregor Roberston, you did want to be mayor of Vancouver, didn't you?

So, when you're sworn in Monday, it will be fair to ask: What's with the $100 million the city loaned the developer of the Olympic Athletes' Village?

After all, that's what got you elected.

Once we discovered NPA candidate Peter Ladner voted in favour of a secret bailout to get the village built, we decided that you and your lame attempt to duck a transit fine were the lesser of two evils.

So, Evil No. 2, you're now the mayor.

What are you going to do about the $100 million?

You've already said you'll have an open council meeting to discuss the issue within 30 days of taking office.

So, when's the meeting? Should I bring the doughnuts?

I'm not sure what you plan to accomplish at this meeting.

But I'm assuming that bailing out the fancy Olympic condo developer is not what you had in mind when you promised to end homelessness.

That is, unless you plan to give homeless people Olympic condos after the athletes leave.

Good idea, eh?

You also said you plan to appoint an external auditor to review the city's finances.

That's when you'll find out that the city's finances are in much worse shape than you

I'm assuming that bailing out the fancy Olympic condo developer is not what you had in mind when you promised to end homelessness.

suspected and you'll have to raise property taxes, thereby causing landlords across the city to raise rents, and putting those folks who are one rent payment away from homelessness out on the street.

Maybe I'm being too cynical. Then again, maybe I'm not being cynical enough.

Take that investigation of the leak about the bailout.

The lawyer in charge doesn't file his report until February. So you can't really have a meeting about all this until his report comes down, can you? Maybe it will be more like 60 days or 90 days or 120 days or … maybe never.

You can't take the money back, can you?

The village has to be built so Bobbie Bobsled has a place to stay during the two-week multibillion-dollar extravaganza, and no private equity firm will touch it, so you and I are on the hook, aren't we?

That's the other thing.

No one really knows how much the Olympics will cost — it's guaranteed to cost at least twice as much as the original estimate of $1.3 billion, and we probably won't know Vancouver's share until well after all those Olympic freeloaders went home.

Just about the time, by the way, when you're running for re-election.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist, owner of Sullivan Media consulting and editor-in-chief of Orato.com, the citizen news website.

Letters

Pandora's box now open

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean made a serious error in shutting down Parliament. From this point forward, any leader to follow has a legal argument that they can suspend Parliament anytime it disagrees with a prime minister.

EUGENE PARKS, VICTORIA B.C.

Time to bone up on your parliamentary knowledge

I'm surprised and baffled that so many Canadians have little knowledge of the parliamentary Constitution. We don't elect a prime minister. We elect a Parliament. It is then the responsibility of that Parliament to choose a leader that they support.

DAN GOULET, TORONTO, ON

Politics, ain't it grand?

Political parties, aren't they great? We spent a bunch of money to get a bunch of people, who claimed they wanted to govern, into the House of Comedy. Now, because of party differences, we're left with a bunch of squalling brats instead a group of rational humans who can solve the problems of the people.

BRIAN ROSE, OTTAWA, ON

Don't blow roses up my backside and call it politics

Re: Sweater Threadbare by Andrew Cohen, Dec. 4

I wanted to respond to Andrew Cohen's commentary on Mr. Harper's detrimental lack of "charisma." What I dislike about Canadians is our need to have a politician blow roses up our backsides to distract us from their greedy hands in our pockets. It seems we are happy to be taken advantage of and lied to as long as the politician in question is doing it nicely.

I am not going on a date with Mr. Harper. I don't need him to romance me or be my best friend.

TARRAH HALL, CALGARY, AB

America looking better

Say what you want about America, but at least their constitution guarantees people can vote whoever they want into power for four years, without the threat of a shady backroom deal bringing them down weeks after taking power.

ORESTES ROBLEDO, TORONTO, ON

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StatoilHydro drops upgrader plans

Norway's StatoilHydro said yesterday it scrapped plans to build a $16-billion US upgrader for its Alberta oilsands holdings, citing prohibitive costs, weak oil prices, economic turmoil and a lack of "legislative clarity." REUTERS

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bankruptcies soar as economy sinks

The number of personal bankruptcies in Canada soared by more than 20 per cent in October as individuals came under increased pressure from deteriorating economic conditions, according to a report released yesterday.

The Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada said a total of 9,468 bankruptcies were filed in October by consumers and businesses. That represents a 7.2 per cent increase from September and a hefty 21.1 per cent jump from the same month in 2007.

According to the report, the majority of filings came from individual Canadians, who saw world stock markets plummet during October as the global financial crisis gathered momentum.

The report showed that 8,972 consumers filed for personal bankruptcy in October. That was up 7.5 per cent from September and 22.8 per cent higher than the same month in 2007.

Bankruptcies filed by businesses totaled 496, just 1.4 per cent higher than in September and actually down 3.3 per cent from October 2007.

Compared with 2007, the total bankruptcies filed in October rose 50.9 per cent in Alberta, 37.4 per cent in British Columbia, and 36.5 per cent in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Bankruptcies in Ontario and Quebec rose 21.6 per cent and 13.6 per cent respectively.

REUTERS

Businesses

- Among businesses, the construction sector led the way with 97 bankruptcy filings, which was 32.9 per cent above October 2007. The retail-trade sector was next with 68 filings, which was 5.6 per cent below last year.

Luxury **Spending not slowing**

REUTERS/MIHAI BARBU

Models stand next to M.V. Augusta motorcycles during the opening day of the 2008 Luxury Show in Bucharest yesterday. Despite the cash squeeze that has hastened recession globally, organizers still expect a high demand for luxury goods.

Purchasing, building permits sag

FINDINGS Purchasing activity in Canada contracted to its lowest level ever last month, while building permits fell sharply in October, two reports showed yesterday, providing the first strong indications of a slower fourth-quarter economy.

The Ivey Purchasing Managers Index fell to 40.2 in November from 52.2 in October, and marked the first time activity had contracted since December 2007.

In another sign of weakening activity in the fourth quarter, the value of Canadian building permits fell by a steeper than expected 15.7 per cent in October.

This decline came off of September's robust 12.5 per cent increase.

REUTERS

TD, CIBC, National Bank report lower profits

EARNINGS TD Bank, National Bank and CIBC all reported lower profits yesterday, but the results were either in line with expectations or the banks' own warnings.

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Baseball salaries slow
Baseball salaries slowed this year even before the economy cooled. The average salary in Major League Baseball this season was $2.93 million US, the players' association said yesterday. The 3.6 per cent increase was the smallest since 2004. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Avery decision expected today

The Dallas Stars' Sean Avery, left, spent three hours in a disciplinary hearing with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman yesterday in New York over lewd comments made on camera Tuesday in Calgary. Avery is suspended indefinitely and Bettman will determine any further punishment. "I want to take the opportunity to spend a little time thinking about what transpired at the hearing and everything that I was told and that needs to be considered," Bettman said during his weekly radio show. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Lions release Clermont

CFL The BC Lions have released slotback Jason Clermont.

"This was a very difficult decision and an equally difficult day for the BC Lions football club," said Lions general manager and head coach Wally Buono.

The Lions also announced that they will not pick up the option on the contract of running back Charles Roberts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

F1 Honda is pulling out of Formula One motor racing and will close its team down if no buyer is found by the end of the year, citing the current economic climate. REUTERS

YorkReport

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Edged in Motown

NHL RESULT

Red Wings 6 Canucks 5

VS

Jiri Hudler and Daniel Cleary each scored a pair of goals as the Detroit Red Wings downed the Vancouver Canucks 6-5 last night at Joe Louis Arena.

Henrik Sedin had a goal and assist while Taylor Pyatt, Kyle Wellwood, Mason Raymond and Alex Burrows each found the back of the net for the Canucks, who had handed the Red Wings a pair of defeats earlier this year, posting a pair of overtime wins while losing the other meeting by just one goal.

Vancouver netminder Roberto Luongo split his two starts versus Detroit this year, with Curtis Sanford getting the other win. Luongo, though, is currently on injured reserve due to a strained left groin, while Sanford left Monday's 3-2 loss to Columbus because of back spasms.

Sanford returned yesterday to allow six goals on 33 shots before being replaced by Cory Schneider early in the third. Schneider stopped all five shots he faced. METRO NEWS SERVICES

REUTERS/REBECCA COOK

Detroit's Dan Cleary, left, scores against Vancouver goalie Curtis Sanford in the second period Thursday night.

Triano gets his turn in T.O.

NBA More than five years and countless hours of practice sessions, games and the downtime that marks an NBA season, Chris Bosh has reached a nice comfort level with Jay Triano.

"I'm comfortable with Jay; he's been in a head coaching position before with the Canadian national team, he's just not in unknown waters right now," Bosh said after a two-hour workout in Utah yesterday morning.

Triano, the former SFU standout and first Canadian head coach in NBA history, takes over an 8-9 team that some think should have a better record. The native of Niagara Falls, Ont., gets the job after spending seven seasons on the Raptors bench working for Lenny Wilkens, Kevin O'Neill and Mitchell.

Triano

"Obviously, I'm going to go in having a plan as to how I can maximize having our best players on the floor for the most amount of time," Triano said.

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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Out of this world

Pg 18

Keanu Reeves discusses his latest sci-fi role — the extraterrestrial Klaatu in the updated version of the film The Day The Earth Stood Still — including the challenges of trying to make a "believable" alien.

movies

Pg 22

Une Conte de Noel is truly a dizzying family drama.

music

Pg 26

Alan Cross muses over which band defines this decade.

urban foodie

Pg 32

Try this delicious recipe from Canadian Living's new book.

music

Pg 26

This year's top seller Lil Wayne leads Grammy nods.

Also in theatres ...
Also opening this week is the action film Punisher: War Zone. Visit *metronews.ca/movies* this Sunday for a review of the movie. You can also read the review in Monday's issue of Metro. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Reeves is making the earth stand still

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN
Metro World News

Keanu Reeves can make the Earth stand still just with his incredible presence. The actor stars as the extraterrestrial Klaatu in the reworking of Robert Wise's 1951 masterpiece, The Day the Earth Stood Still, in theatres next Friday.

Movie **interview**

Looking elegant in the chic surroundings of the Ritz, Keanu Reeves tells us more.

Q Congratulations, you manage to come across as a scary alien without any overacting or weird physical traits.

A Thank you. It was scary to play an alien because it has to be believable. So I'm glad that you went along with the story. I approached it like any other role. I was trying to figure out what did the alien want, who was it, how does it exist? And I just came up with ideas for that and tried to play the role.

Q Did you watch the original?

A Yeah, sure. But this version of the film, and specifically Klaatu, the character that I play, is very different. I kind of thought of myself as his brother (laughs). But it's very different.

Q Your Klaatu is less talkative as well. Yet we see the different emotions he is feeling despite his stoic expression.

A Yeah, the character has a character arc and as he begins, one of his first lines is,

continued >>

Keanu Reeves stars in The Day the Earth Stood Still.

Saving Luna a killer whale of a tale

Saving **Luna**

Director: Suzanne Chisholm, Michael Parfit
Classification: STC
Rating:

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Despite the emergence of documentaries as a viable box-office force, nature docs have remained firmly on the cinematic sidelines. Saving Luna, an official selection at more than a dozen film festivals, makes the case that such films might have a place in the mainstream and almost succeeds, albeit, in spite of itself.

The film chronicles the plight of a lone Orca whale that appeared in the waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island in 2001. Luna's territorial like nature (very unwhale like) and constant need for attention endeared him to the nearby residents in Gold River. But problems erupt after the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the advice of a handful of scientists decided to enforce longstanding laws regarding human interaction with whales. Saving Luna was made by Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit; a pair of journalists who came to Gold River to write a small news story about Luna. Like most of the people interviewed for the film, the couple became enamoured with the Orca, and soon involved themselves in his stewardship.

Parfit's narration, framed like a children's story (it reminded me of the narrator on the old CBC cartoon The Raccoons) comes off as condescending and his long passages of exposition grow tiresome. Throughout the film, he describes a fourth wall that exists between man and nature and how Luna was as active a participant in breaking it as the people with whom he came into contact.

But by becoming a participant in Luna's story (he and partner Chisholm actively lobbied the DFO over the situation), Parfit breaks a journalistic fourth wall, irreparably damaging the film's credibility. Still, Luna is a very charming whale, a fact that shines through the film's clunky and at times one-sided story telling, and makes this worthwhile viewing.

Saving Luna tells the story of an Orca too close to humans.

Swank to be a resident
Hilary Swank has signed on to appear in The Resident in a new film from Finnish director Antti Jokinen and the newly revitalised Hammer Films. IMDB.COM

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

<< ...continued

"This body will take some getting used to." So he starts more with his alien self and I think through the course of the film, he gains a little more human empathy and changes. He is affected by what he sees and by being in a human body. So that was the story I was telling.

Q (Co-star) Kathy Bates said you really terrified her.

A She did? Well, that's nice of her! (Laughs)

Q Both the original and this remake carry strong messages for humankind.

A The original was more about violence and the expansion of violence. The alien came and said, "If you continue with this violent path, we will be more violent than you." So there was kind of a threat there. If that's violence, I don't know. In this film, I guess it's ecology. I guess (it's) the human character. The film says we are at a crossroads with our planet. We, as a human species, are having such an adverse impact on the planet that either we're going to die or the planet's going to die. And if the Earth dies, we die. But if you die, the Earth survives. My character is here to make a judgment on the human species and comes to learn and believe that at this crossroads, at this tipping point, human beings can change, that we will be able to survive ourselves.

Q Do you think there's also a political message, especially when Kathy Bates' character says, "You don't talk to the UN. You talk to us"?

A Yeah, it's a multi-layered film and I think part of it is the representation in the beginning that America is aggressive, and when it's confronted by something unknown reacts aggressively. The story we tell is that maybe that's not the best way to be, that that kind of aggression has adverse consequences. And Kathy Bates' character comes to realize that. She's like, "We need to have a dialogue, we need to talk. There has to be a different way."

Q Does it resonate with what's happening today?

A Yeah. It's an issue that people are thinking about in the world and hopefully the film will be part of the solution.

On the web

• Visit *metronews.ca/movies* to see a trailer from The Day the Earth Stood Still.

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Alan Rickman holds Nobel Son's story together

Nobel Son
Director: Randall Miller
Stars: Alan Rickman, Mary Steenburgen
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●●

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

In a season filled with big movies that promise big meaning, it's refreshing to find a film that delivers on its modest goal of providing smart, subversive entertainment.

At its heart, Nobel Son is a story about a father and his son. Alan Rickman plays Eli Michaels, a university professor for whom the term egomaniac doesn't do justice.

He regularly cheats on his police psychiatrist wife Sarah, (Mary Steenburgen) is contemptuous of his son Barkley's (Bryan Greenberg) decision to study anthropology rather than follow in his footsteps as a Nobel Prize-winning scientist, and is generally baffled by the world's ignorance of his intellect.

These family tensions boil over after Barkley is kidnapped following a roll in the hay with a brooding poet/artist named City Hall (Eliza Dushku).

Eli thinks Barclay is pulling the wool over his eyes and is reluctant to pay the $2-million ransom demanded by Barclay's kidnapper.

The film's strength comes from its chameleon nature. The first 20 minutes play like a typical dysfunctional family comedy before swiftly shifting into a twisted kidnap caper then settling into a bizarre psychological thriller. By playing with the viewer's familiarity of each genre, director Randall Miller — who also co-wrote the script — is able to create a genuinely original and entertaining film.

On the web

• Visit *metronews.ca/movies* to see the Nobel Son trailer, photos from the film, and movie times.

Miller has also assembled a stellar supporting cast including Bill Pullman, Ted Danson and Danny DeVito as a recovering obsessive-compulsive.

But it's the always-fabulous Rickman who holds the story together. His ability to give such a loathsome character charm and wit forces viewers to root for Eli, even when they know all he deserves is his comeuppance.

There are elements of Nobel Son to quibble over; its stylized edits, split screens and a late '90s electronica soundtrack are distracting at first. But given a chance, these disorienting elements bleed into the increasingly dense plot.

Viewers willing to stick it out though will be rewarded with a rare film that only gets better as each frame rolls.

Dark Shadows for Depp and Burton

Johnny Depp and Tim Burton will work on a film adaptation of the cult TV show Dark Shadows, a Gothic soap opera that Depp was apparently obsessed with as a child. **IMDB.COM**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

An implausible plot

Restless

Director: Amos Kollek
Stars: Moshe Ivgy, Ran Danker, Karen Young
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

A father and son are reunited in the film Restless.

Restless is an angry and politically conscious film about a middle-aged washout in New York named Moshe (Moshe Ivory) who abandoned his family in Israel long ago for the seemingly endless possibilities of America.

Unfortunately, things didn't quite work out as planned for Moshe, who is now living in a state of poverty and has become viciously embittered with the world. Moshe then does what any sane person would do in the same situation, he becomes a spoken word poet and voices his frustrations to drunken bar patrons (well … that's what you would do, right?).

The early scenes of Restless boast the intensity of a movie like Stand Alone, following a once average man's decent into madness. However, the way in which Moshe regains his sanity is so ridiculous that it becomes difficult to believe anything else in the film. Apparently, angry political poetry is not only still preformed regularly at bars, but can also draw huge crowds and make venue owners rich. That's ridiculous and it really doesn't help that the poetry isn't very good either.

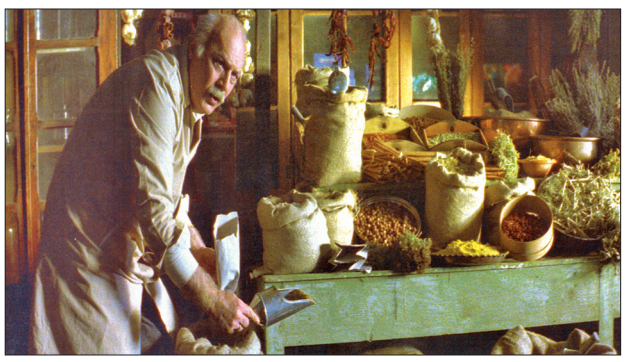
Once Moshe's "career" takes off, this once poignant portrayal of a lost soul becomes a fairly obvious tale of redemption with a romantic subplot stolen straight out of Harold And Maude. The believability of the film may deteriorate rapidly, but that is due entirely to the script. The acting is always top notch (particularly from lead actor Moshe Ivgy who completely disappears into the role) and the handheld documentary aesthetic gives the film an appropriate visual sense of realism and unpredictability. There are definitely moments of great emotional power in Restless. It's just a shame that the central story is so ridiculous and implausible.

Spice not a satisfying dish

A Touch of **Spice**

Director: Tassos Boulmetis
Stars: Georges Corraface
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada



A Touch Of Spice was originally released in 2003 in Greece.

A Touch Of Spice was originally released in 2003 and was a beloved hit in Greece. It's easy to see why: The film is filled with subtle observations about Greek family life and features rich production values.

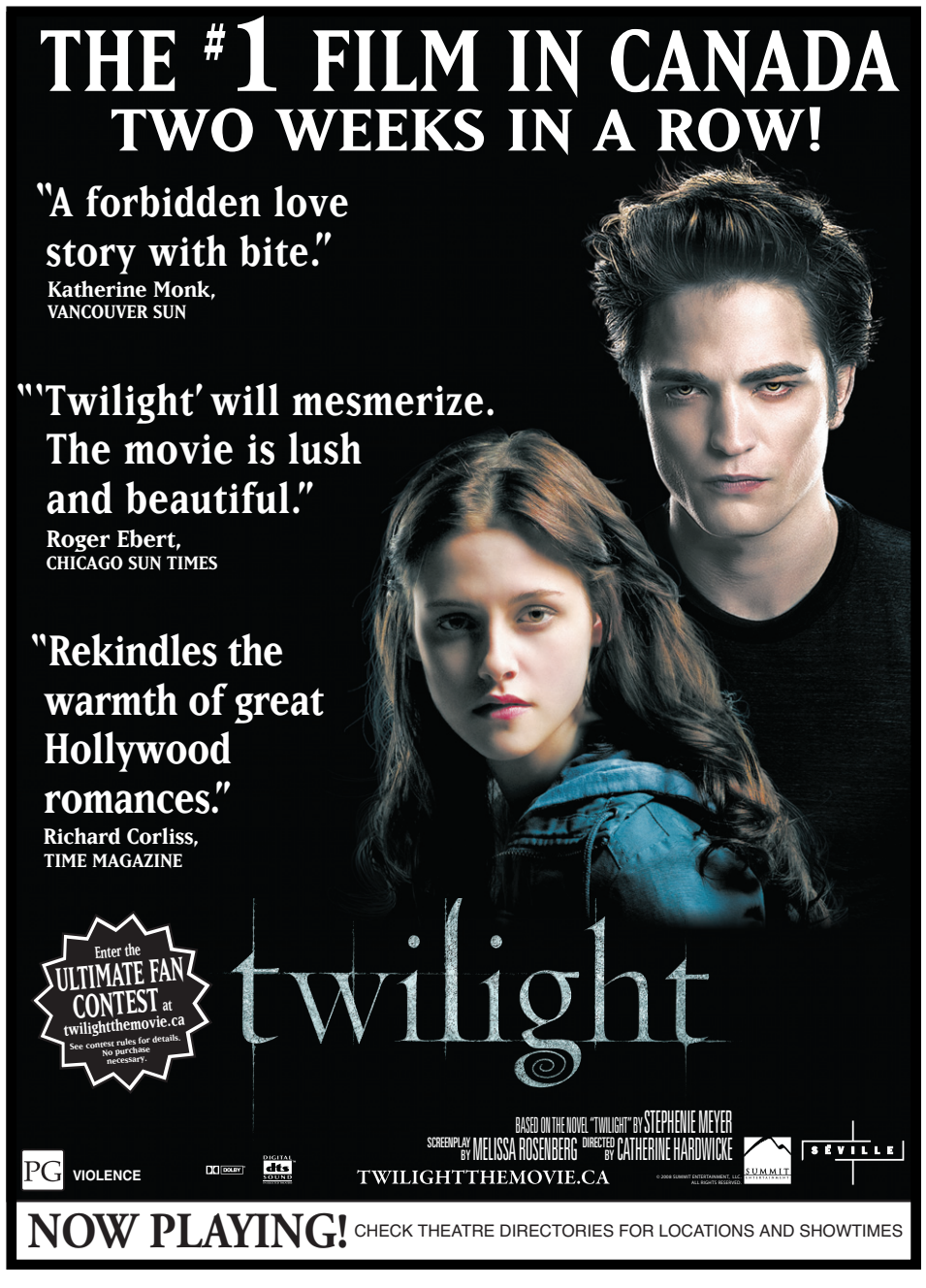
However, the North American release has been delayed five years for a reason. The movie is easy to appreciate on a technical level, but the story and characters are so rooted in Greek customs and history that it offers very little appeal to anyone who isn't fully versed in the culture.

There's nothing wrong with that approach and I'm sure that the film plays like gangbusters to its intended audience, but a little too much is lost in translation.

The film tells the story of a Fandis, who we see master the art of cooking as a child and become an astronomer in his adult life (you know, that old story). The purpose of the bizarre career swap is part of an extended food-as-life metaphor that doesn't quite work.

During his childhood Fandis is deported from Turkey to Greece at the start of the Cypriot intercommunal violence in 1963, making the film a political allegory as well. Director Tassos Boulmetis also tries to cram in a love story, but ends up tossing far too many balls into the air for one movie. There are so many elements in play that it is often difficult to determine what Boumetis is trying to say.

It may be muddled, but A Touch Of Spice is by no means a disaster. The cast is excellent, the cinematography is gorgeous, and a handful of complicated special effects shots are worked into the film seamlessly. But even though there are some wonderful ingredients in play, they just don't come together to form a satisfying dish.



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Elizabeth Olubudun, OK MAGAZINE

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Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW

"A SWEET STOCKING STUFFER."
Thema Adams, US WEEKLY

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Poster for Knowing shows up online

The poster for Alex Proyas' high-concept dark thriller, Knowing, has shown up on the Internet and sent fans speculating the film may be bigger in scope than anyone previously suspected. **IMDB.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

A fireball, but no aliens in the Prairies

InFocus

Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Recently a giant meteor lit up the Canadian prairie sky. "It was really bright. We weren't really sure what happened … got up to look out the window, and all of a sudden, we heard this rumbling," said one witness.

If this happened in a movie a nerdy lab-coated scientist would say something like, "No telling what kind of meteor it is or what goes on inside of it … it's been gathering the secrets of time and space for billions of years," before giant bugs or aliens hatch from the mysterious rock, bringing intergalactic mayhem with them.

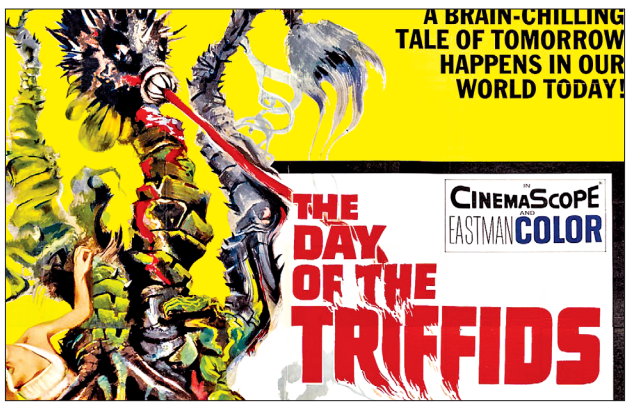
Next week a massive fireball will bring Keanu Reeves crashing to earth in The Day the Earth Stood Still, a remake of the 1951 sci-fi classic. In it he plays Klaatu, an ambassador from an extraterrestrial confederation who arrives with a simple message for the people of the third rock from the sun, "If the Earth dies, you die. If you die, the Earth survives."

All in all fireballs are usually bad news.

Remember Cloverfield? After a burst of light from the sky illuminated lower Manhattan a colossal creature resembling a giant sweaty salamander with the mumps laid waste to the city.

In The Day of the Triffids meteors do double dastardly duty. First a colorful meteor shower attracts worldwide attention, but the light from the shower renders most of Earth's population blind. Next spores from the meteors turn into plant-like space aliens. That development leads to my favorite ever line in a meteor movie.

"Keep behind me," says hero Tony Goodwin. "There's no sense in getting killed by a plant."



Plant-like creatures created panic in The Day of the Triffids.

Movie meteors aren't always bad, however. Robert Townsend wrote, directed and starred in Meteor Man about a meek Washington, D.C., teacher who develops superpowers after being hit by a glowing green meteor. Using his newly found abilities he cleans up the streets after a drug lord moves into his neighbourhood.

So far there haven't been any reports from the prairies of alien spores, super human behaviour or giant beasts terrorizing Brandon, Man., but if movie science is to be believed anything is possible.

According to Paul Frees in The Monolith Monsters you never know when the meteor will make itself known. "Meteors!" he says. "Another strange calling card from the limitless regions of space — its substance unknown, its secrets unexplored. The meteor lies dormant in the night — waiting!"

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Family neuroses abound against holiday backdrop

Un Conte de **Noel**

Director: Arnaud Desplechin
Stars: Catherine Deneuve, Matthew Almaric, Emmanuelle Devos
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Arnaud Desplechin's latest turbocharged episode of French Family Feud — following his acclaimed 2005 drama Kings and Queen — concludes with a quotation from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

It is appropriate because after two and a half hours of dizzying filial drama — sibling rivalry, adultery, cancer scares, grudging blood transfusions and symbolic living room Christmas pageants — the film's message basically boils down to, "Lord, what (entertaining) fools these mortals be." And this is very much a movie about mortality: Its narrative is framed by the tragic death of a child. Never regarded as a minimalist, Desplechin absolutely goes for broke here, sketching an eccentric spectacularly dysfunctional upper-middle-class clan — think The Petit Bourgeois Tenenbaums — and then leaving their various neuroses to smash up against one another against a holiday backdrop.

As usual, the director elicits bravura performances, especially by the now-ubiquitous Matthew Amalric, playing a less cuddly version of his Kings and Queen rascal (and convincingly taking the greatest onscreen face-plant since Jackass).

And Desplechin makes bravura filmmaking choices to match: There's scarcely a shot that doesn't teem with activity, invention or some sort of cinematic allusion (like a clever, unexpected nod to Vertigo).

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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

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The Alps (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat 8:30
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri-Thu 1 Sat 7:30
Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) A.M. Fri-Thu 11 Fri 7:30
The Light Before Christmas (STC) Fri-Thu 3
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Sat-Sun 5

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The IMAX Nutcracker (STC) Fri-Mon 1-8 Tue 1 Wed-Thu 1-8
The Polar Express: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Mon 2-6-9 Tue 2-9 Wed-Thu 2-6-9
Santa vs. the Snowman (STC) Sat-Sun 4
Wild Ocean (G) Fri 12 Sat-Sun 12-5 Mon-Thu 12

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:15-9:15
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (G) Fri-Wed 4:20-6:45 Thu 4:20
Milk (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:30
Rachel Getting Married (PG) Fri-Tue 1:50-9:10 Wed 9:10 Thu 1:50-9:10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4-6:50-9:20

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

The Adventures of Pinocchio (Opera) (STC) Digital Presentation Sat-Sun 1
Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35
JCVD (PG) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
Let the Right One In (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Rachel Getting Married (PG) Fri 6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:20
Religulous (PG) Fri 7:05-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:05-9:25 Mon 9:25 Tue-Thu 7:05-9:25
Tell No One (14A) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:55-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
A Touch of Spice (STC) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Banff Mountain Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sat 7:30
Elegy (14A) Sun 3:25-9:25 Mon-Thu 9:25
Frozen River (PG) Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) DTS Digital Fri 6:30-9 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:30-9 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:30-9
Quantum of Solace (14A) DTS Digital Fri 7:10-9:40 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:40 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

Alice (STC) Thu 9:25
Christmas Story (STC) Sat 4
Four Minutes (STC) Fri 9:05
Four Weeks in June (STC) Sun 9:05
Investigation (STC) Mon 9:30
Léif Lëtzebuerger (STC) Wed 9:30
Of Time and the City (STC) Fri 7:30
Return of the Storks (STC) Sat 9:10
SimÛn (STC) Wed 7:30
V·clav (STC) Sat 7:15
The Wake (STC) Mon 7:30
We Shall Overcome (STC) Sun 7
The Wooden Box (STC) Thu 7:15

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 4-7:30

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

The Adventures of Pinocchio (Opera) (STC) A.M. Sat 10
Saving Luna (G) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:45-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Body of Lies (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:30-10:25
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:30-7-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 1-4-7:15-9:40 Wed 1-4-6:45 Thu 1-4-7:15-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor Atomic Encore (STC) Sat 10
Milk (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-12:40-3:20-3:50-6:40-7:10-10:10:30
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:10-7:20-10:20 Thu 1:30-4:10-7:15-10:20
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:50-10:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri 1:10-4:20-7:40-10:15 Sat 4:20-7:40-10:15 Sun-Wed 1:10-4:20-7:40-10:15 Thu 1:10-4:20-10:15

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-2:05-3:15-4:25-5:35-6:45-7:50-9:05-10:15 Wed 1-2:05-3:15-4:25-5:35-7:50-9:05-10:15 Thu 1-2:05-3:15-4:25-5:35-6:45-7:50-9:05-10:15
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-10
Changeling (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:25
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:40-2:50-4-5:10-6:20-7:30-8:40-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:40-2:50-4-5:10-6:20-7:30-8:40-9:50
Nobel Son (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:30-5:05-7:40-10:20
Punisher: War Zone (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7-9:35
Restless (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 4:45-7:15-9:45
RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Thu 2:25-5-7:45-10:30
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10
Transporter 3 (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:35-4:05-6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:05-6:40-9:10

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street,
604-683-Film vifc.org

The Animation Show 4 (STC) Wed-Thu 9:15
Cuba the Value of Utopia (STC) Fri 7 Mon 9:15 Tue 7
Died Young Stayed Pretty (STC) Wed-Thu 7
Forbidden Lies (STC) Fri 9:15 Mon 7 Tue 9:15

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 5:10-7 Mon-Thu 7
Religulous (PG) Fri-Thu 8:50

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

The Adventures of Pinocchio (Opera) (STC) Sat-Sun 1
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-4:20-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25
Changeling (14A) Fri 6:40-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:35
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:10-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 7-7:30-9:40-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-4:30-7-7:30-9:40-10 Mon-Thu 7-7:30-9:40-10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri 7:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:10-3:50-7:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:30
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:10-7:20-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:20-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:50-5-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor Atomic Encore (STC) Sat 10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 6:50-10
Twilight (PG) Fri 6:30-7-9:20-9:50 Sat 12:30-3-3:30-6:30-7-9:20-9:50 Sun 12-12:30-3-3:30-6:30-7-9:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:30-7-9:20-9:50

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri 4:10-7:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-4:10-7:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:10-7:35
Bolt (G) Fri 5-7:15-9:35 Sat 12:30-2:45-5-7:15-9:35 Sun 12:30-2:45-5-7:15 Mon-Thu 5-7:15
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri 4:40-7:25-9:40 No Passes Sat 12:45-4:40-7:25-9:40 No Passes Sun 12:45-4:40-7:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:40-7:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:55-7:10-9:30 Sat 12:35-2:50-4:55-7:10-9:30 Sun 12:35-2:50-4:55-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:55 Sat 12:50-4:30-7:20-9:55 Sun 12:50-4:30-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:20
Twilight (PG) Fri 4:15-7-9:50 Sat 12:55-4:15-7-9:50 Sun 12:55-4:15-7 Mon-Thu 4:15-7

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way,
604-272-7280

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-2:30-4:15-7:15-8
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:10-2:30-4-5-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:20
Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (STC) Fri 4:40-8:15 Sat-Thu 12:55-4:40-8:15
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:25-6:35-9:55
Dostana (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-8:45
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:20-10:05 No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:55-6:50-9:30 No Passes Thu 3:55-6:50-9:30 No Passes Thu 1
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3-5:15-7:50-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: The IMAX Experience (G) Fri-Mon 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20 Tue 2:20-4:40-7-9:20 Wed 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20 Thu 12-2:20-4:40-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor Atomic Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye! (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 5:10
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:50-7:55-10:35
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-2-4-5-6:45-7:45-9:40-10:40
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:10 Mon 1:20-4:20-10:10 Tue-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-1:25-3:10-4:35-7:05-7:35-10-10:25
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30 Thu 12:30-3:30-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Bolt (G) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-5-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:35-4:15-7:50
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:55
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-7:05-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:40-10:10
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:45-10:25
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:25-4-7:35-10-10:30
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:25-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-7-9:45
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-12:45-3:45-6:45-7:30-10:20

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Body of Lies (18A) Fri 4:35-7:20-9:55 Sat 1:40-4:35-7:20-9:55 Sun 1:40-4:35-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20
Changeling (14A) Fri 4:30-7:15-10 Sat 1:35-4:30-7:15-10 Sun 1:35-4:30-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15
Eagle Eye (PG) Fri 4:40-7:10-9:45 Sat 1:50-4:40-7:10-9:45 Sun 1:50-4:40-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:10
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 4:45-7:05-9:50 Sat 1:55-4:45-7:05-9:50 Sun 1:55-4:45-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:05
Max Payne (14A) Fri 4:55-7:25-10:15 Sat 2-4:55-7:25-10:15 Sun 2-4:55-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:25
Saw V (18A) Fri 5-7:30-10:10 Sat 2:05-5-7:30-10:10 Sun 2:05-5-7:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri 4:50-7-10:05 Sat 1:45-4:50-7-10:05 Sun 1:45-4:50-7 Mon-Thu 4:50-7

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-1:45-4-5:30-8-9:15
Body of Lies (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 11:30-1:55-4:25-6:55-9:25 Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:55-7:25-9:55
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6:20-9:35
Eagle Eye (PG) Fri-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:35
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15 No Passes Tue 5:15-7:50-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 12:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Mon 11:50-12:20-2:15-2:45-4:40-5:10-7-7:35-9:20 Tue 12:20-2:45-4:40-5:10-7-7:35-9:20 Wed-Thu 11:50-12:20-2:15-2:45-4:40-5:10-7-7:35-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Tue 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor Atomic Encore (STC) Sat 10
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 12:45-1:45-3:45-4:45-6:45-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45 Sat 12:45-3:45-4:45-6:45-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45 Sun-Thu 12:45-1:45-3:45-4:45-6:45-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45
RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Thu 10:20
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:25
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:10-6:40-7:10-9:40-10:10
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 8:55

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey,
604-592-4441

Appaloosa (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15-6:30
Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 12-2:10-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Body of Lies (18A) Fri-Thu 4:30
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30
Eagle Eye (PG) Fri 8:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-8:50 Mon-Thu 8:50
Igor (G) Sat-Sun 12
Mamma Mia! (PG) Sat-Sun 12
Role Models (14A) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 2:15-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 9:05

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-4:10-7:45
Bolt (G) Fri-Mon 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:30-9:55 Tue 4:50-7:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:30-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Tue 1
Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (STC) Fri 3:50-8 Sat-Thu 12:20-3:50-8
Dostana (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:05-7:40
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:35 No Passes Tue 3:40-7:10-9:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7:05-9:25
Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye! (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:20-10:05
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:45
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:15-10:15

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Australia (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:45-8:15
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:30-4:45-7-9:15
Chakk de Phatte (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:45
The Dark Knight (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 9:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-1:50-3:55-4:20-6:55-7:30-9:10-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:40-4:55-7:10-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 2:40-4:55-7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:40-4:55-7:10-9:25
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:15-7:15-9:45
Quantum of Solace (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7:05-9:50
Role Models (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4-7:05-9:35
Transporter 3 (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:15-4:40-7:25-9:55
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-1:45-4:05-4:30-6:50-7:20-9:35-10

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3343 West Broadway

2748 Rupert St.

1 - 525 Seymour St.

150 - 625 Howe St.

105 - 950 West Broadway

1707 Robson St.

1092 Kingsway

10 - 3490 Kingsway

Burnaby

Brentwood Mall

Crystal Square

Lougheed Mall

Metrotown/Metropolis

214B - 4501 North Rd.

4711 Kingsway

7531 Market Crossing

111 - 3823 Henning Dr.

204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Coquitlam

Coquitlam Centre

101 - 3278 Westwood St.

5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.

2700B Barnet Hwy.

22 - 2988 Glen Dr.

2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster

Royal City Centre

North Vancouver

Capilano Mall

127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.

1295 Marine Dr.

1748 Lonsdale Ave.

1392 Main St.

Richmond

Aberdeen Centre

Admiralty Centre Mall

Ironwood Mall

Lansdowne Mall

Parker Place

Richmond Centre

115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

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Top-selling albums according to Amazon.ca
1. And Winter Came, Enya; 2. A Winter Symphony, Brightman, Sarah; 3. Twilight, Soundtracks & Original Casts; 4. Day And Age, The Killers; 5. Soul, Seal. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Band of the decade debate

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

By my reckoning, there are 391 days until the end of the first decade of the 21st century and we still haven't managed to come up with a proper name for it. The Zeroes? The Aughts? The O's? The Zips? You'd think we'd have figured it out by now. If it's any consolation, though, Gregorian calendar types faced the same issue between 1900 and 1909. (Personally, I blame Stanley Kubrick for some of the confusion. Life might be much different if he had called his 1968 movie "Twenty-oh-one: A Space Odyssey")

And with 391 days left, you'd figure that we might have come up with a Band of the Decade. After all, the 60s were all about the Beatles and the Stones. In the 70s, it was Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and the Eagles. The 80s gave us U2 and Springsteen while the 90s remains all about grunge: Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden.

Could Coldplay be the band of the decade?

But those were the days when we didn't have the kind of access to music that we have today. With all of us being able to get whatever song we want, wherever we are and whenever we want it, mass consensus has broken down to the point where we're all individual islands of musical taste. When was the last time we had a new release that sold by the tens of millions? In the Olden Days, that happened all the time. Today, not so much.

So back to my original question: which artist/band will history make synonymous with this decade? I put this question to the masses through Yahoo! Canada Answers over the last week and I received hundreds of responses. And there was a fair amount of agreement.

A lot of people made a good argument for Coldplay. After all, they emerged at the turn of the century and have sold somewhere around 30 million records. Chris Martin is a photogenic frontman with a Hollywood wife and two bizarrely-named kids. And he and the rest of the band are committed to a variety of social and humanitarian causes.

Others suggestions included the White Stripes ("They made being indie cool for the mainstream!"), Nickelback ("Dude, say what you want, but they sold a lot of albums.") and the Killers ("Even my mom likes them!").

What do you think? Drop me a line and we'll revisit this sometime in the next 391 days.

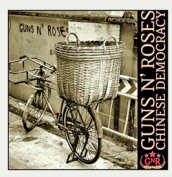
The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Metro recommends

- **THE FIREMAN, ELECTRIC ARGUMENTS:** Paul McCartney meshes his psychedelic heritage and whimsical pop magic for an expansive and engaging new sound.

- **KANYE WEST, 808S & HEARTBREAK:** Busted-computer beats and an auto-tuned mic help Kanye sort through heartache and find new hip-hop ground.

- **GUNS N' ROSES, CHINESE DEMOCRACY:** With trademark GnR boldness and new styles to match, Axl creates an intricate pop-metal landscape. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Lil Wayne, Coldplay lead Grammys

Rapper Lil Wayne, whose new album was the biggest seller of the year, led the field of Grammy contenders, while rock bands Coldplay and Radiohead led a British invasion of the music industry's top honors.

Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter, scored eight nominations, while Coldplay followed with seven, organizers said on Wednesday. Three acts were each nominated for six — rappers Kanye West and Jay-Z, and R&B singer Ne-Yo.

Lil Wayne, Coldplay, Ne-Yo and Radiohead will compete for the coveted album of the year Grammy. The fifth spot went to a an acclaimed transatlantic collaboration between former Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant and bluegrass queen Alison Krauss.

Other British acts with high-profile mentions included two female singers, Duffy and Adele, nominated for best new artist, a prize that once went to the Beatles.

In the record of the year race, Adele and Coldplay were joined by compatriots Leona Lewis and M.I.A., as well as Plant & Krauss. Adele and Coldplay were also nominated for song of the year — a songwriter's award.

"They're doing great work," said producer Jimmy Jam, a top Grammy official.

He suggested this year's crop of British newcomers benefited from a "trickle down" from the likes of trouble-prone London neo-soul singer Amy Winehouse, who won the record, song and best new artist Grammys this year.

Radiohead, who already have two Grammy wins, received five nominations this time, as did Plant & Krauss. Adele received four nominations. Nominations in all 110 categories will be unveiled during two ceremonies in Los Angeles on Feb. 8.

Lil Wayne's album Tha Carter III sold 1 million copies in the United States during its first week, the best opening tally of the year. His seven other nominations were in the rap field, including rap album and rap song, and he will compete against himself in two races.

Coldplay's nominations stem from its album Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends, which topped the charts around the world this summer. **REUTERS**

For more on this year's Grammy nods, including Canadians nominations and more, go to metronews.ca

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Cherif Medawar

Cherif Medawar
International Investor & Authority on Commercial Real Estate

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From Hotel Manager to Real Estate Magnate

Cherif Medawar, Founder,
Institute of Commercial Real Estate (ICRE)

My education at UCLA taught me how to work for money, but not how to make my money work for me. I was working night and day as a hotel manager in California when a billionaire guest pulled me aside and said, "Cherif, come work for me. I will show you the path to wealth."

I learned how to acquire properties, how real estate deals are structured, and how billions are made. On a much smaller scale, I also began to buy my own properties and develop a personal system for creating wealth.

Today, I have property all over the world. And yet, I work less than ever.

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Serial killer to drop by Grey's Anatomy

Grey's Anatomy will have a new patient this winter — and he won't be an easy one to treat. Eric Stoltz will be rolled in to Seattle Grace's halls as a serial killer in need of serious medical attention. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

Sarah Palin ticks off the mighty O

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

NO ONE SAYS NO TO OPRAH: She's taking her show to Washington D.C. for Barack Obama's inauguration, but Oprah Winfrey is apparently perplexed, even annoyed, that former Republican vice-presidential hopeful Sarah Palin hasn't appeared on the couch that Tom Cruise once pummelled.

"I went and tried to talk to Sarah Palin and instead she talked to Greta Van Susteren. She talked to Matt Lauer. She talked to Larry King, but she didn't talk to me," Oprah complained to Extra. "But maybe she'll talk to me now that she has a book deal."

To which you can add — hell, Palin even did a spot on Saturday Night Live at the height of Tina Fey's ongoing Palin party trick, and was probably willing to do Spring Break in Orlando. Hell, I hear she's even penciling in a visit to my place to teach me how to do polar bear in the slow cooker, which will probably happen before she does Oprah's show.

IT'S SORT OF LIKE PIZZA THAT ORDERS ITSELF: Mad Men star Jon Hamm will apparently be doing a trio of appearances on 30 Rock, playing a doctor neighbour of Tina Fey's Liz Lemon who becomes Lemon's new love interest.

"I just finished a couple of episodes, and I'll go back in the new year and do another one of those," Hamm told the Associated Press. "And then we'll see what happens."

When those shows air, most people will be shrugging and going, "30 what? Jon who?" but residents of all the regions thick with New Yorker subscriptions will be turning off the phone and letting their Thai takeout go cold.

IT'S SIMPLE REALLY: In the New York Daily News, columnist David Hinckley surveys the season's offerings of dusty chestnuts and lacklustre new efforts, and wonders why Love, Actually, 2003's Brit Christmas remake of Schnitzler's La Ronde, isn't a holiday staple.

I'll tell you why, David: It's because it blows. Big time. That is all.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

FRIDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce	Rick Mercer	Doctor Who (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Insider	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	20/20 (CC)		News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Supernanny (CC)		Law & Order (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas ★★ (2000) (CC)				NUMB3RS (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Kool Countdown (CC)		Don't Forget the Lyrics! (N)		Stargate SG-1 "The Shroud"		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Holiday Moments: TV & Film		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		Crusoe (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Grandma Got Run Over		The Story of Santa Claus		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Robin Hood"		NUMB3RS (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Holiday Moments: TV & Film		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		Dateline NBC (N) (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas ★★ (2000) (CC)				20/20 (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics! (N)		News (N)	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey	Sportsnet	Hockey	Simply	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	Basketball	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Utah Jazz. (Live) (CC)					SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	Call Me Claus ★★ (2001, Comedy) Whoopi Goldberg. (CC)				Smallville "Persona" (CC)		Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	Father	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Hockey: A People's History		The Royal Matron gets upset.		Dalziel: A Killing Kindness		Wonderful, Horrible Life of Riefenstahl		
	575	583	20	CMT	CMT's Greatest "Interviews"		Sugarland: Live at the Revival		The Christmas Shoes (2002) Rob Lowe, Kimberly Williams.				CMT Star (N)
	615	520	61	A&E	CSI: Miami "Ambush" (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "Raising Caine"		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear "Tami"		Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear "Lisa K."		Real Simple
	616	522	39	SHO	The Best Years "Vertigo"		The Guard "The Beacon"		Testees (CC)	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Wedding Crashers ★★★ (2005) (CC)		Laffapalooza!			Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Flubber ★★ (1997) (PA) (CC)	
	603	561	52	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Challenge "Extreme Cakes"		Chef Abroad	The Wild Chef	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	60	CEN	Sanctuary "Requiem" (N)		The Ruins ★★ (2008) Jonathan Tucker.			Grindhouse ★★★ (2007) Kurt Russell, Rose McGowan. (CC)			
	581	566	101	MTV	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	Girls-Latitude	Dance Life	Dance Life	The Hills	The Hills	Made (CC)

12/5/08

SATURDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at San Jose Sharks. (Live) (CC)					HNIC -- After Hours		News (CC)	HNIC Replay
	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Soup	Behind	Behind	Reese Witherspoon: Golden		Celebrity Cash Couples		E News
	250	321	9	CTV	W-FIVE-Pharma Sutra		To Be Announced		Law & Order "Lost Boys"		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Ultimate Engineering (CC)		Tank Overhaul (CC)		Painkiller Jane "Trial by Fire"		Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Eleventh Hour (CC)		Cold Case "World's End"		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	Bravo! Fact
	253	359	13	CITY	Survivorman (CC)		Crusoe (N) (CC)		Heaven's Fury (2003) Joanna Pacula, Nick Mancuso. (CC)				Role
	-	-	14	CW	CSI: NY (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: NY A tiger kills a man.		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		The Unit "Five Brothers"		Cold Case "World's End"		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Billy Graham Special (CC)		The Best Winter Escapes		Blind Horizon ★★ (2004) Val Kilmer, Neve Campbell.				News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	College Football: Big 12 Championship			DTV: Ready?	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Monk (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Most Wanted	MADtv (CC)
news	502	390	26	NW	Doc Zone: Dubai		Sat. Report	Weekend	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Doc Zone: Dubai		Sat. Report
	500	500	33	CNN	D.L. Hughley-News		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Investigations
sports	407	419	22	RSP	English Premier League Soccer: Man Utd vs. Sunderland				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Planet Speed	2007 Poker Million				SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	I Want a Dog-Charlie Brown		Naruto (CC)	Blue Dragon	Zatch Bell (N)	Bleach (CC)	Storm Hawks	Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	X-Men ★★★ (2000, Action) Hugh Jackman.		
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	National Geographic Specials		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders Investigating the murder of a couple. (N)				Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Christmas With the Kranks		Grand Ole Opry Live		Christmas With the Kranks ★★ (2004, Comedy) Tim Allen.				Jason McCoy
	615	520	61	A&E	The Sopranos (CC)		The Sopranos "He Is Risen"		CSI: Miami "Rampage" (CC)		CSI: Miami "One of Our Own"		The Sopranos
	521	560	34	TLC	Trading Spaces (N) (CC)		Twins, Twins & Sextuplets		Property Ladder (CC)		Trading Spaces (CC)		Little People
	616	522	39	SHO	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	A Life Interrupted (2007) Lea Thompson. Premiere.				Eurotrip ★★ (2004) Scott Mechlowicz. (CC)		
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:45) Wedding Crashers ★★★ (2005) Owen Wilson. (CC)				(:15) I Spy ★★ (2002) (PA) Eddie Murphy, Owen Wilson. (CC)				Shanghai
	603	561	52	FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		The F Word		Challenge Edible decorations.		Top Chef (CC)		Nightmares
	320	621	60	CEN	Harry-Phoenix	Golden	First Sunday ★★ (2008) Ice Cube. Premiere.			(:45) Knocked Up ★★★ (2007) Seth Rogen, Paul Rudd. (CC)			
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

12/6/08

SUNDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Heartland "Showdown!" (N)		Elf ★★★ (2003, Comedy) Will Ferrell, James Caan. (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		News (CC)
	255	358	6	JOY	Ty Pennington		Extreme Makeover: Home		Fox Reality Channel Really Awards Preshow (CC)				News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	Desperate Housewives (N)		The Amazing Race 13 (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance Canada Winner is announced.				News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	16:9 Picture	King of Hill	The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		The Christmas Card (2006) Ed Asner, John Newton. (CC)				New Canoe
	253	359	13	CITY	2Half Men	2Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Stylista (CC)		Role
	-	-	14	CW	Jericho "Fallout" (CC)		The Cutting Edge ★★ (1992) D.B. Sweeney, Moira Kelly.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	289	381	15	CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		The Amazing Race 13 (CC)		Front of the Class (2008) Patricia Heaton. Premiere. (CC)				News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	NFL Football: Redskins at Ravens			M. Holmgren	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Ty Pennington		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	King of Hill	King of Hill	BCS Selection	The Simpsons	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)	Q It Up Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	26	NW	Wide Awake ★★★ (2006, Documentary) (CC)			Our World	CBC News: Sunday Night		Wide Awake ★★★ (2006, Documentary) (CC)		
	500	500	33	CNN	D.L. Hughley-News		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Investigations
sports	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey	Sportsnet	Skiing: FIS World Cup Alpine		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	NFL Football: Redskins at Ravens			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Motoring 2009	Billiards: International Chall.		SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	(6:00) Blizzard ★★ (2003)		SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	The Next Star "Giving Back"		Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	Titan A.E. ★★★ (2000) Premiere.		
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	National Geographic Specials		Doc Martin (CC)		The Whistleblowers (CC)		Dalziel: A Killing Kindness		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT's Greatest "Interviews"		Take Me Home: The John Denver Story ★★ (2000)				Dukes
	615	520	61	A&E	CSI: Miami "Triple Threat"		CSI: Miami "Bloodline" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Prey" (CC)		CSI: Miami "A Grizzly Murder"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Lottery Changed My Life III		Life as a Giant (CC)		Wealth Hunters		Lottery Changed My Life III		Superhuman
	616	522	39	SHO	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Say Goodnight Bad Guys		Testees (CC)
	294	650	47	TBS	Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy ★★ (2004) (CC)				Orange County ★★ (2002) Colin Hanks. (CC)			(:45) Zoolander ★★ (2001)	
	603	561	52	FN	Jamie's Kitchen Australia		Chef School	At the Table	Challenge (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Jamie
	320	621	60	CEN	(:15) The Nanny Diaries ★★ (2007) Scarlett Johansson. (CC)				Dexter "I Had a Dream" (N)		Transformers ★★★ (2007) Shia LaBeouf.		
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After	Girls-Latitude	Made "Hockey Player" (CC)		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After Show

12/7/08

Trailer Park Boys say bye with final special

Ricky Gervais: Out of England

Air date: Saturday
Network: HBO Canada

Ricky Gervais

Office creator Ricky Gervais does his stand-up act in this special taped at Madison Square Garden, with a heavy dose of his solipsistic humour.

So You Think You Can Dance Canada

Air date: Sunday
Network: CTV

I've been a bit chilly on the show since Arrasay was voted out, but the finale of the hit dance competition will have us all wondering: Why does this feel so much more democratic than actually voting in elections in this country?

Rick's TVPicks

Trailer Park Boys

Air date: Sunday
Network: Showcase

Dartmouth's favourite sons say goodbye to the small screen with Say Goodnight To The Bad Guys, the show's final special before the movie that will presumable wrap up this celebration of all things underclass in Maritime Canada.

Bubbles

RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA

PLEASE CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR SHOWS' AIR TIMES.

NBC's The Office scores Super Bowl touchdown

MIDSEASON NBC's hit comedy The Office will get the coveted post-Super Bowl spot next year.

The post-Bowl position is considered the most valuable piece of programming real estate on television, exposing a series to tens of millions of viewers. NBC will air a special one-hour episode of its Emmy-winning comedy after the game concludes Feb. 1.

"The Office is a perfect fit for after the Super Bowl," NBC scheduling chief Mitch Metcalf said. "It's going to be a hilariously funny hour, and I think people will be in the mood to laugh."

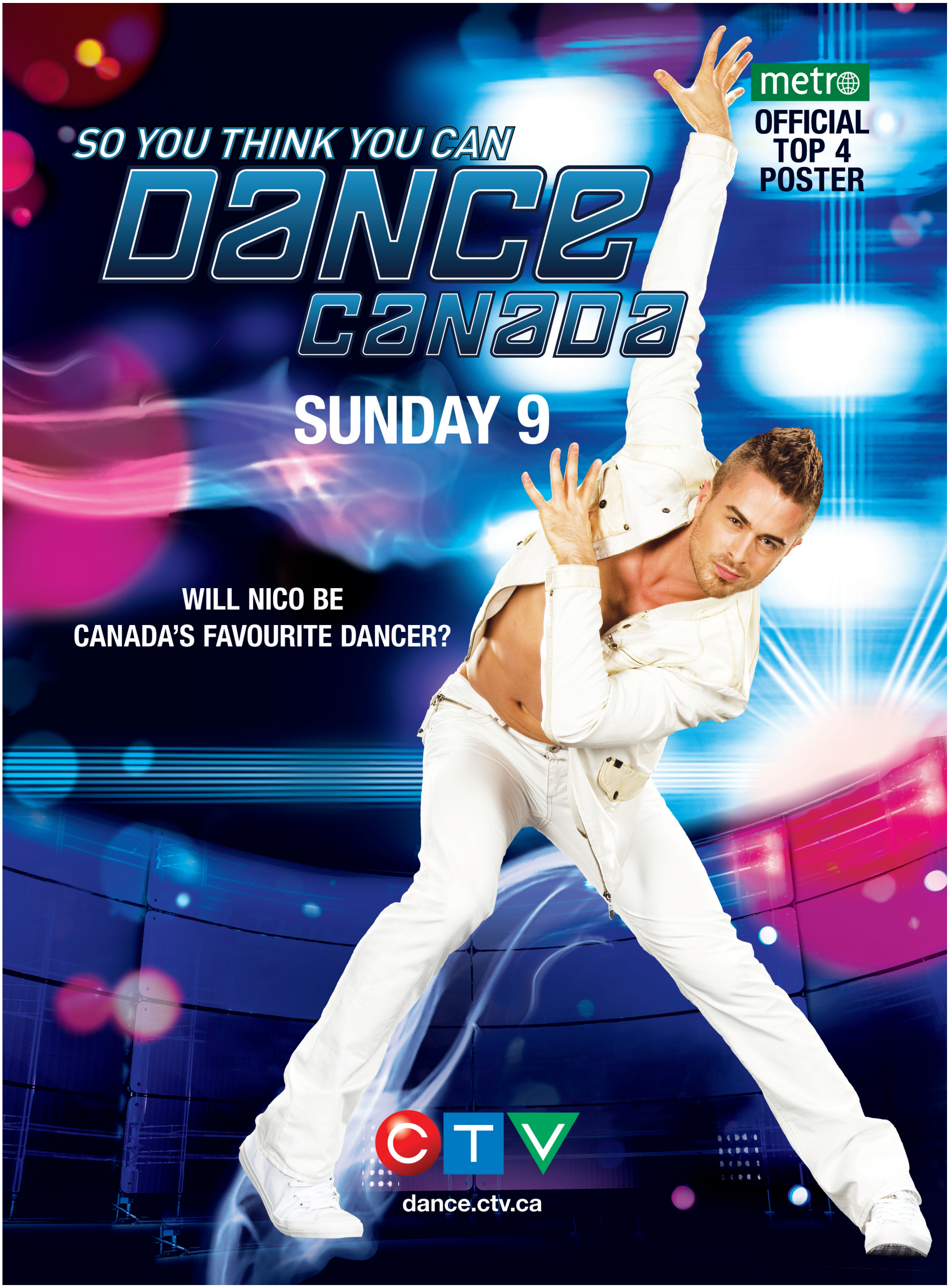
With NBC's ratings severely depressed this fall, the Super Bowl telecast presents a valuable opportunity to bring viewers back to the network.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Exclusively at *metronews.ca/style*

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies


SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
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TOP 4
POSTER
SUNDAY 9
WILL NICO BE
CANADA'S FAVOURITE DANCER?
CTV
dance.ctv.ca

Knight Rider actors dropped

Sydney Tamila Poitier and X-men star Bruce Davison have been axed from the Knight Rider remake in an effort to keep costs down on the show. The pair completed the first 13 episodes but won't be back, according to U.S. tabloid the Globe. **IMDB.COM**

Television

Show the animals you care with a BC SPCA *Paws*itive Gift!
www.PawsitiveGifts.ca

5 Christmas specials

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, especially on your television set. Classic holiday movies, and Christmas cartoon specials start airing on North American networks this week.

6 Christian Siriano for Payless

Payless is going to get a little fiercer with Project Runway winner Christian Siriano designing an exclusive footwear and handbag collection for the discount shoe store, available in fall 2009.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Alba in Campari calendar

Actress Jessica Alba flaunts her post-baby body in Campari's glamourous 2009 calendar. Only 9,999 copies have been printed.

2 So You Think You Can Dance

With just four dancers remaining on So You Think You Can Dance Canada, the nation will be watching this weekend to see who comes out on top.

3 Britney back in business

Britney Spears has released her much-anticipated album, Circus, after live performances in Europe and the United States. The album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts, and the pop star, who turned 27 on Tuesday, also announced plans for a 2009 tour with the Pussycat Dolls.

4 Tophats

Madonna, Heidi Klum and Britney Spears have all sported a dapper top hat as part their recent ensembles. This dramatic look is best suited to an over-the-top holiday affair.

7 Homemade holiday goodies

Cookies, preserves, and truffles are all great holiday gifts that can be made on a tight budget. Try getting together with friends in December and whipping up some yummy homemade presents.

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY

Cheech and Chong

Fri., 7:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 600 Block Hamilton St.

Cheech and Chong stop off in Vancouver as part of their reunion tour. The duo, known for their pot comedy, met in the late '60s in a Vancouver night-club.

Nutcracker Corner

Sat., 2 p.m.
Chapters (Robson and Howe)

Ballet B.C. company dancer Marianne Bauer will read a number of popular Christmas tales to children, including The Nutcracker, The Polar Express, and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

5th Annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade

Sun., 1 p.m.
Downtown Vancouver

The Rogers Santa Claus Parade features marching bands, dance troupes, festive floats and community groups attracting more than 300,000 spectators.

Retro Design & Antiques Fair

Sun. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Dr.

You'll find vintage and estate jewelry, pop culture classics, boho and shabby chic accents, French country collectibles, and more.

Arts Club Theatre Company presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast

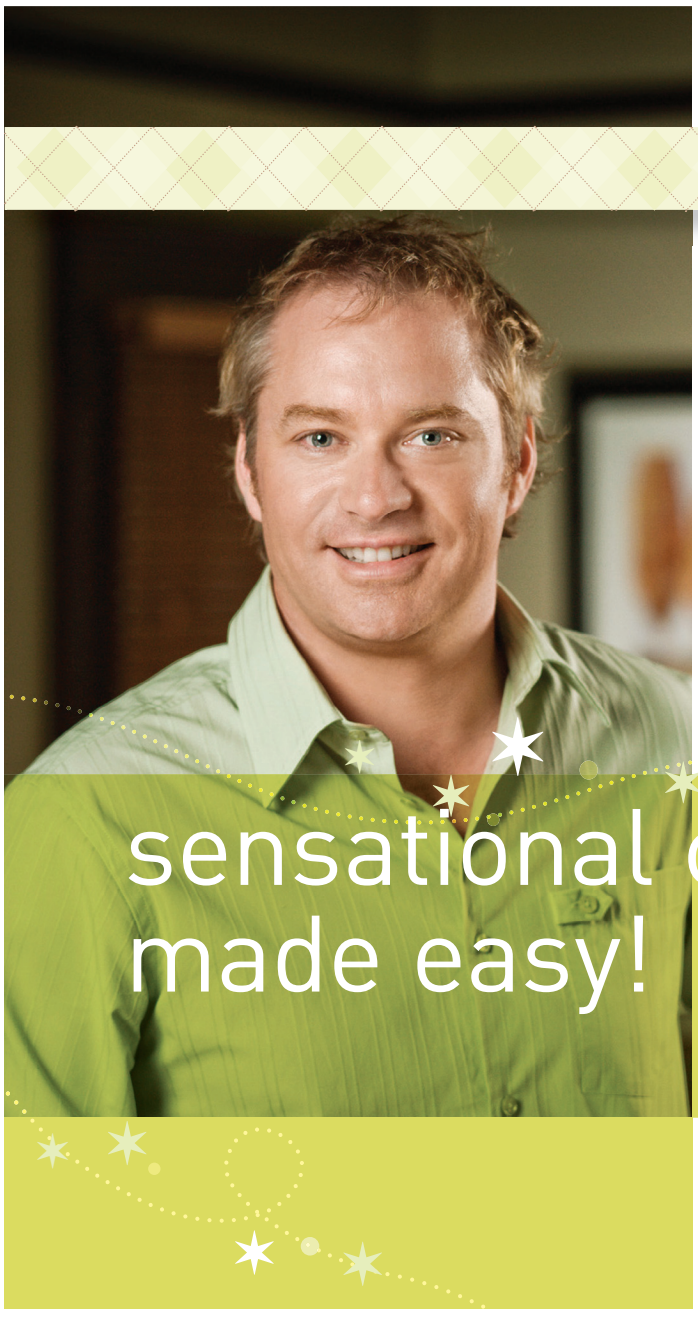
Sat. 2 p.m., 8 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
2750 Granville St., at 12th Ave.

A limited engagement run of the play adapted from the popular animated film.

The Vancouver Convention Centre's Breakfast with Santa

Sat., registration 9:30 a.m., breakfast served 10 a.m.
999 Canada Place

Enjoy a buffet breakfast, share your wish list with Santa, and enjoy festive family entertainment.



gather 'round on TV
what's cooking

one-hour festive tv special

W NETWORK

Sunday
December 7 at 7 p.m.

Encore presentations
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This December, gather 'round with Martin and his special guests. They'll prepare delicious recipes together and share some great ideas for stress-free holiday entertaining with family and friends.
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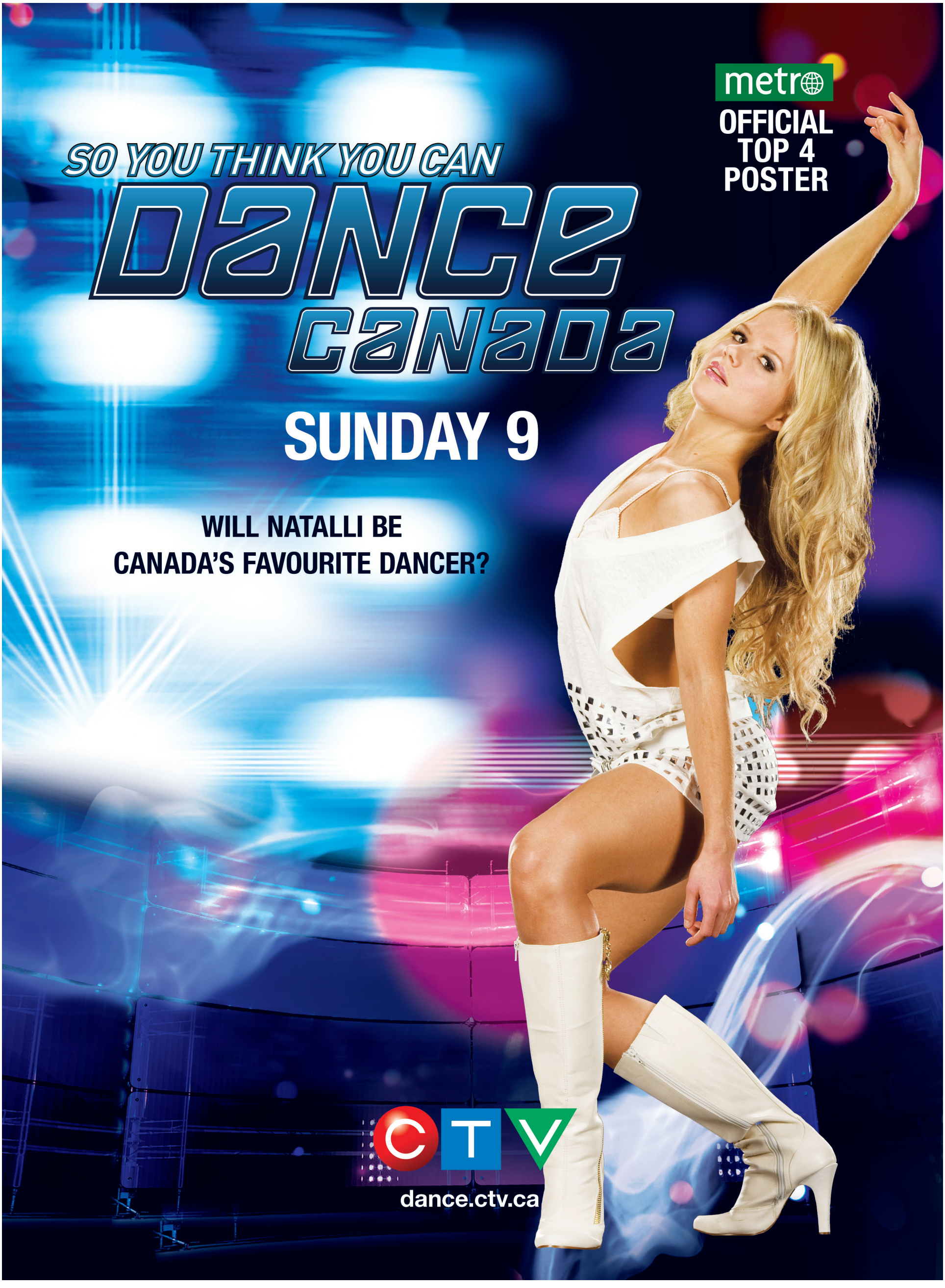
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SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
DANCE CANADA
SUNDAY 9
WILL NATALLI BE CANADA'S FAVOURITE DANCER?
CTV
dance.ctv.ca

Back with a vengeance

Celebrity Apprentice returns for a second season on March 1, bigger than ever. How so? The reality TV series will air two-hour episodes every Sunday. TVGUIDE.COM

Urban Foodie

When life gives you lemons ...

The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, the newest offering from the trusted Canadian Living Test Kitchen and Elizabeth Baird, is the gold-standard, go-to book that Canadian bakers can depend on. From cookies to cakes to pies to spoon desserts, there's something for every skill level and palate.

Canadian Living offered Metro a recipe for these unbeatable treats:

Lemon Cheesecake Bars

A middle cream cheese layer makes these a change — for the better — from the usual lemon squares.

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) finely grated lemon rind
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) icing sugar

Cheesecake layer:

- 1 pkg (8 oz/250 g) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg

Base:

- 30 lemon social tea cookies
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter, melted

METHOD:

Line 13- x 9-inch (3.5 L) metal cake pan with parchment paper or grease; set aside.

BASE: In food processor, whirl cookies to make 2 cups (500 mL) crumbs; pulse in butter until moistened. Press into prepared pan. Bake in centre of 325 F (160 C) oven until firm, about 12 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack.

CHEESECAKE LAYER: In bowl, beat cream cheese with sugar until smooth; beat in egg. Spread over base; set aside.

In bowl, beat eggs with sugar until thickened. Beat in lemon rind and juice, flour and baking powder until smooth; pour over cheesecake layer. Bake in centre of 325 F (160 C) oven until edges are set and lightly browned, about 35 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack. (Make ahead: Remove from pan; wrap and refrigerate for up to 5 days or overwrap in heavy-duty foil and freeze for up to 1 month.) Cut into bars; dust with icing sugar.

Tips:

- Hold an offset or rubber spatula as parallel to the surface as possible as you spread the filling evenly over the base.
- Let bars cool completely before cutting.
- Lift uncut bars out of pan using parchment paper liner as handles.
- Place on cutting board.
- With long knife, trim off edges to neaten up.
- A ruler is helpful so all pieces are the same size.
- For 13- x 9-inch (3.5 L) metal cake pan, cut crosswise into quarters. Cut each quarter in half lengthwise, then cut crosswise into fifths to make 10 squares.
- Keep a wet, wrung-out cloth handy to wipe knife clean between cuts.

EDWARD POND PHOTO

Remember to let bars cool completely before cutting for the neatest possible squares.

On the web

Need more?

- You've got lemons, now try oranges: Orange Sour Cream Bundt Cake, another fabulous recipe from The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, is available at *metronews.ca*.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

PlanB LOUNGE | EATERY

Urban and stylish; sophisticated yet casual... Yaletown's newest arrival is a hip lounge with some of the best tasting share plates in town.

This highly anticipated addition to Vancouver's culinary scene by restauranteur Glenn Cormier has lived up to it's hype. Executive Chef Michael Batoux has hit his mark with a tapas style menu for true food lovers. The long narrow room with exposed brick and wood beams has a sleek design with a modern feel.

Les Petites Bouchees - Snacks for Socializing
Warm Picholine & Nicoise Olives $6
Charcuterie Plate $12
Classic Cheese Board $12

Main Tasting Menu - Share Plates
Beetroot Ravioli $13
Butternut Consomme & Cappuccino $9
Qualicum Bay Scallops $16

Desserts
Stilton Cheese Cake $6
Lemon Tart $6
Coffee and Rose Water Creme Brulee $6

1144 Homer Street, Yaletown
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Urban Eats

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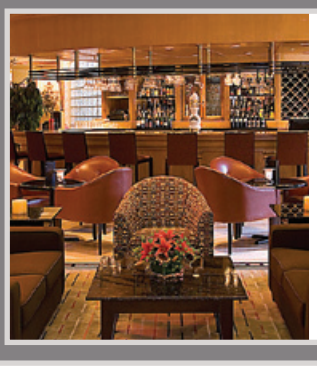

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D40

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Baywatch baby
Former Baywatch star Gena Lee Nolin and her husband, NHL hockey player Cale Hulse, have welcomed a girl, Stella Monroe Hulse. She was born Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Getty regrets actions over Miller

RELATIONSHIPS Actor Balthazar Getty regrets not standing up for girlfriend Sienna Miller and his wife Rosetta when the media took aim at them over his alleged infidelities, imdb.com reports.

Getty feels both women were treated unfairly by the tabloids when news of his romance with Miller first surfaced earlier this year, and now he wishes he had done something to protect the ladies in his life.

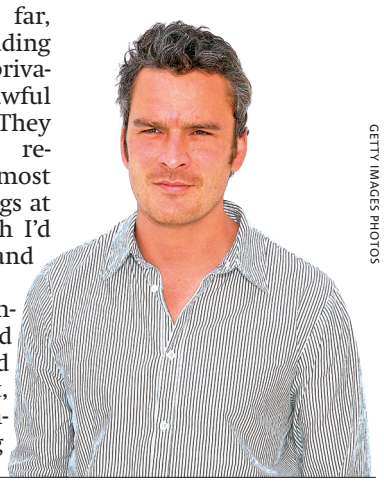
"There comes a time when it just gets a little bit too hurtful. It takes two to tango, man. You can't just point your finger at one person. Historically, women always get the short end of the stick," he tells America's TV Guide magazine.

"People went too far, whether it was invading Rosetta and the kids' privacy or saying really awful things about Sienna. They (photographers and reporters) yelled the most awful, disturbing things at her. Sometimes I wish I'd just stepped forward and said, 'Enough!'"

Getty refused to confirm reports he and Miller have reconciled after a brief split, adding, "I can't comment on what's going on there. I just can't."

He adds that both Miller and his wife are "both special people in my life."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Dunst back on dating scene?

RELATIONSHIPS Kirsten Dunst is back on the dating scene after breaking up with Justin Long — the actress is reportedly romancing filmmaker Jacob Soboroff, imdb.com reports.

Dunst is working with Soboroff on a documentary about voting, and the two have become more than close friends, according to reports.

"Yes, they're dating," a source tells Life + Style magazine.

The new couple was spotted shopping together at an art store last week.

Dunst previously dated Jake Gyllenhaal and reportedly romanced Orlando Bloom.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Union doomed: Heidi's mom

RELATIONSHIPS Heidi Montag's mother has wrecked her daughter's new wedded bliss by predicting her marriage to Spencer Pratt will last just six months, imdb.com reports.

Darlene Egelhoff is fuming after The Hills stars eloped to Mexico to marry in secret on Nov. 24, and she is accusing 25-year-old Pratt of controlling her daughter and forcing her to sideline her own family.

"(When I heard they had married) I was devastated. I've spent many hours crying and depressed," Egelhoff tells Us magazine. "I've been completely cut out because of Spencer. I didn't get to shop for a dress and be involved. She's too young to get married, and Spencer has cut everyone out of her life ... I want the best for my daughter — and he's definitely not it."

And she delivers a damning verdict on the future of the union: "I'm confident the marriage won't work out. I give it six months."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jamie Lynn underwent secret procedure?

BEAUTY Jamie Lynn Spears has undergone a secret fat-reducing cosmetic procedure, according to tabloid reports.

Both Star magazine and the National Enquirer allege 17-year-old Spears has had her tummy trimmed by soy-based injections that dissolve fat, imdb.com reports.

The Enquirer claims the former star of Zooey 101 underwent the procedure recently, at a clinic in Nevada; but Star claims Spears was actually treated in October 2007, shortly before she discovered she was pregnant with her daughter Maddie.

"Her mom, Lynne, approved the injections and went through tons of red tape to get the clinic to administer them to an underage patient. She had no idea she was pregnant," a source tells Star.

A representative for Spears has refused to comment on the reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Simpson loves self-help books

PEOPLE Jessica Simpson confesses to Marie Claire in its January issue that despite a steady relationship and a new album, she still thinks she could use some self-improvement, People.com reports.

"I am the first person to go to Barnes & Noble and buy the new self-help book," Simpson, 28, says. "I like to fill out the surveys, then I get my friends' opinions on how I answered to see if I was being honest with myself or not."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

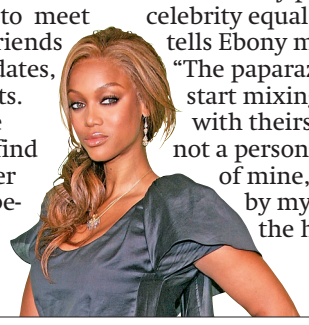
Tyra prefers blind dates to stars

RELATIONSHIPS Supermodel-turned-talk-show host Tyra Banks avoids romance with fellow celebrities, instead choosing to meet potential boyfriends through blind dates, imdb.com reports.

She insists she isn't looking to find love with another famous person because the media attention would be too much to handle.

"I try not to date people who are famous because one celebrity plus another celebrity equals five," she tells Ebony magazine. "The paparazzi will just start mixing my name with theirs ... But it's not a personal interest of mine, I get set up by my friends. It's the hook up!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ripa pans divorce rumours

RELATIONSHIPS TV personality Kelly Ripa has brushed off reports she's splitting from her husband of 12 years, actor Mark Consuelos, imdb.com reports.

Tabloids suggested Ripa walked out on Consuelos over his alleged involvement with "other women."

But Ripa has hit back at allegations made by The National Enquirer this week.

"The Enquirer runs the story on a regular basis. There is no truth. They make this stuff up," a spokesperson for Ripa tells usmagazine.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heche ecstatic about expecting

BABY Anne Heche and her partner James Tupper are expecting their first child together, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress is said to be extremely excited about the pregnancy.

"They are both thrilled!" Heche's representative reportedly said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No excuse for DUI, Osment says

REGRET Former child star Haley Joel Osment quit alcohol at the age of 18, after he was punished for driving drunk in Hollywood in 2006, imdb.com reports.

The incident shamed the actor, who had to pay a fine and adhere to probation, as well as a mandatory rehab stint and Alcoholics Anonymous course.

Osment vowed to stop drinking completely until he turns 21.

As his 21st birthday approaches, he says his actions were "extremely irresponsible. There's no excuse for that," he says. "I learned my lesson. I made a bad decision, and it's something you can't run from."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today Showers 60% 6° / 4°
Saturday Showers 40% 6° / 4°
Sunday Showers 80% 9° / 6°

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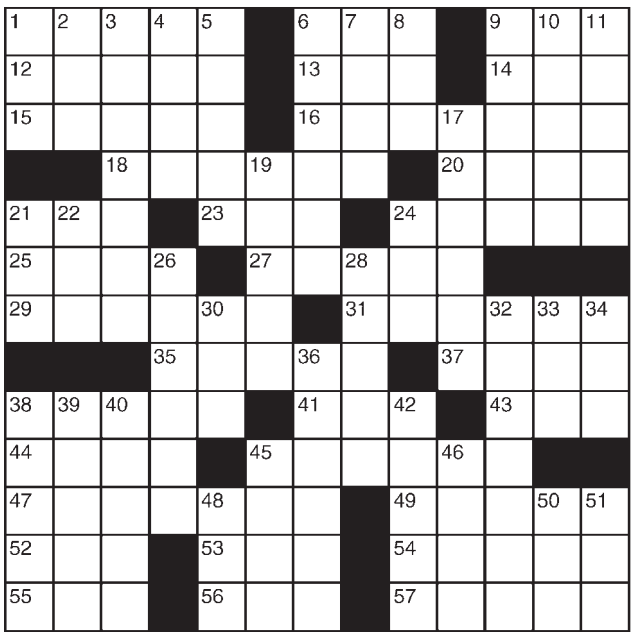
Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3		1			2	5	
9				4		6		1
7				6				
	9	2			5		4	
				1				
	5		9			7	8	
				3				4
5		8		9				2
	4	6			1		9	

Crossword across

1 Cried like a crow
6 Sweet potato
9 Plead
12 Open-mouthed
13 Microbrewery product
14 Ostrich's kin
15 Gondolier, typically
16 "Ben-Hur" author
18 Race place
20 Augments, with "out"
21 Long March leader
23 Copper head?
24 Thing of value
25 Heidi's home
27 Some exams
29 Grated
31 Petunia, for one
35 That is (Lat.)
37 Church section
38 New again
41 Congregant's seat
43 Started
44 Bocelli solo
45 Breakfast option
47 Southern Belgian
49 Lessen
52 Superlative ending
53 Disencumber
54 Emphasize slyly
55 In medias —
56 Golfer Ernie
57 Fashion

Crossword down

1 Upper limit
2 Past
3 Belts
4 Duel tool
5 Skin (Suff.)
6 Bored one
7 Remark re Yorick
8 He spoke for Bugs
9 Birds' bills
10 Host
11 Visitor
17 Textbook chapter
19 Home
21 Scratch
22 Miss. neighbor
24 The whole shooting match
26 Helix
28 Following
30 Tokyo, once
32 Midsize kangaroo
33 Prior night
34 Wine option
36 Pays out
38 Less refined
39 Obliterate
40 Isn't perpendicular
42 Sports
45 Spring wind?
46 Touch
48 Tramcar contents
50 Up to, in verse
51 Compass pt.

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	G	G	S	■	F	A	T	■	A	F	R	O
B	U	R	T	■	L	I	E	■	F	L	O	G
B	R	A	Y	■	A	D	S	■	L	A	I	R
S	U	B	L	E	T	■	T	O	O	T	L	E
■	■	■	E	L	F	■	■	P	A	W	■	■
H	A	F	T	■	O	F	F	S	T	A	G	E
I	L	L	■	■	O	I	L	■	■	R	I	G
C	I	A	B	A	T	T	A	■	R	E	N	O
■	■	T	U	G	■	■	T	I	E	■	■	■
S	P	I	N	E	T	■	F	I	C	K	L	E
L	O	R	D	■	O	B	I	■	I	N	O	N
E	N	O	L	■	M	R	S	■	T	E	N	D
D	Y	N	E	■	B	A	H	■	E	W	E	S

4	6	5	2	3	7	8	1	9
8	7	2	9	4	1	3	5	6
3	9	1	8	6	5	7	2	4
9	2	6	7	5	8	1	4	3
5	8	3	6	1	4	2	9	7
7	1	4	3	9	2	5	6	8
6	3	7	5	2	9	4	8	1
1	5	8	4	7	6	9	3	2
2	4	9	1	8	3	6	7	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Pork Tenderloin with Honey-Mustard Sauce

INGREDIENTS:
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh rosemary or 1 tsp (5 mL) dried
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon zest
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
1 pork tenderloin (about 1 lb/500 g), trimmed
1/3 cup (75 mL) fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup (50 mL) honey
3 tbsp (45 mL) coarse Dijon mustard
1/2 cup (125 mL) 10% cream
1 tbsp (15 mL) all-purpose flour

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Line small roasting pan with foil. Combine rosemary, garlic, lemon zest and salt in small bowl and rub evenly over pork tenderloin; transfer pork to pan. Mix lemon juice, honey and mustard in small bowl. Transfer half to small saucepan and set aside.
2. Brush pork with 2 tbsp (25 mL) honey–mustard sauce. Roast pork until glazed and golden brown or until instant-read thermometer reads 160°F (71°C), about 25 minutes, basting 2 or 3 times with remaining sauce.
3. Meanwhile, put cream in small bowl and whisk in flour until smooth. Warm reserved honey–mustard sauce in small saucepan over low heat. Gradually whisk in cream mixture and cook, whisking constantly, until sauce thickens, about 3 minutes. Serve with pork.

SERVES 4

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For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Don't run away from an intense situation if in doubt. An adversary wants to learn your tricks. Incompetence raises some second thoughts.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Desperate measures are taken by new people. Search for thrills with a reckless buddy. Friends will gather behind the scenes.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
There are too many options to choose from. Adventures are caused by trying to get somewhere. An obsession with something could get sticky.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Pay attention to the direction of a vehicle. Someone isn't sure of the consequences. Be silent when an old argument resurfaces.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone will be a poor loser. You'll want to quit an unhappy situation. A little guy will back off.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Regret over a mischievous encounter dissipates. Someone changes the rules. Pay attention to an over-reaction.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Something marvelous will happen. A magical awakening takes place. Something you say convinces a friend to stay behind.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
It's too late to think the best of a buddy. A moving tribute is made to a generous act. Check out a proposed business venture.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Monitor all conversations with a bureaucrat. A mystifying friend gives a heart-felt speech. Something begins to make sense.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
There'll be a case of mistaken identity. You need to get something off your chest. You'll be told of unfamiliar circumstances.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You have to set a good example. Easy friendship comes from setting boundaries. Pay attention to loved ones.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Being anxious is a waste of your time. Letting go of inhibition warms somebody's heart. Make a helpful suggestion to a young guy.

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